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## Rational Vol. 9, No. 7 July, 1980 \$1.50

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#### On The Cover . . .

David Simonette, 11; Kevin Daley, 8, and his brother Michael, 11, stepped into the spotlight at the Beverly, MA, pro stop to herald the Junior Nationals August 11-16. For a story on six top ranked players who've come out of the USRA Juniors program turn to page 17. For the Junior Nationals entry turn to page 23.

- Wendell Davis photo

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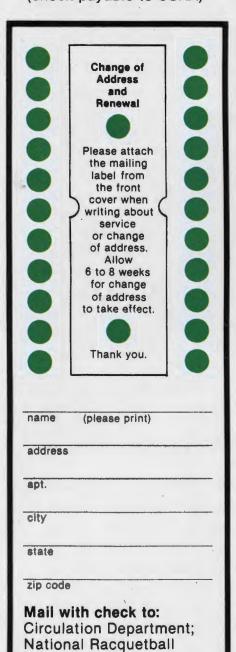
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#### **Opinions**

#### From Bob Kendler



This month I'd like to share some thoughts with you — our readers — that I discussed with the Retailers of America during the Seamco Classic last April in Beverly, MA.

Athletes like Marty Hogan or — for that matter — Mickey Mantle or Roger Staubach, are not an accident of birth. Their skills are the end product of great personal sacrifice and their success also stems from the marketing of their endorsements through the Retailers of America.

Now this is putting it bluntly, but if anyone tells you our sport could have come up with all this prize money without the sales you made — he's dreaming. What you do gives incentive to what we do; and I would like, at this time, to say that I join with Seamco in paying you a well deserved tribute for putting money in the players' pockets, helping us build 1,700 court clubs in the last 10 years and putting on hundreds of tournaments wherever the fierce American competitive spirit still prevails.

I could tell you about a thousand kids you have helped, both in racquetball and handball, but I prefer to talk about Marty because he is a classic example of the good your sales do. One of the key men on our staff, Joe Ardito, has devoted most of his life to working with kids. Around Chicago Joe is a legend. Well when half a dozen ex-handball kids from St. Louis showed up at our first racquetball tournament, old Joe couldn't wait to get his hands on them. In the beginning he thought handcuffs rather than racquets would be more appropriate for Marty and his friends, but being the saint that he is he worked with the boys as though they were his own. Then good fortune smiled on us again. Charlie Drake came along and helped us promote these kids until they no longer needed guidance. By that time racquetball was helping to put them

through school and solving many personal problems for them. The true purpose of our Association was now beginning to take form.

Since all these things are costly, and more than anyone could expect Leach to sponsor alone, we looked for (and found) another angel. Al Mackie brought Seamco into our team, and anytime you talk about Superstars, you can include Al Mackie. Without Al racquetball would still be on the back burner, and court clubs would still be on the drawing boards. What Al does for the players, and what Seamco does for our Association is another wonderful story.

You — the Retailers of America — are the unsung heroes of our whole program. Without the funding that is made possible by your marketing, without sponsors for our amateur and pro tours, without a nation full of budding athletes we all would have failed. What I really want to emphasize is that we are one big team . . . a winning team . . . deeply devoted one to another. Every one of you can well be proud of the role that you played in making racquetball the sports miracle of the 70s. And if you think what you did in the 70s was something, just wait till I tell you what you can expect in the 80s!

To begin with we are taking racquetball to every country of the world. It's already booming in Canada, where a TV series is ready to be shown. In the far east we are now closely associated with the Japanese Racquetball Association. And we're working with other fine people in England, France, the Netherlands — even Australia and South America.

Closer to home there are the thousands of local, state, and regional tournaments, and as often as we can swing it, scholarships are the prize.

This summer we will stage the first outdoor racquetball tournament ever, and we have chosen for the site, of all places, New York City! This will be a one-wall national championship, and where could it get better exposure than in Central Park! For openers, we plan to start with 15 or 20 courts, but the New York Park Board tells us they have a total of 2,000 available, and one day we plan to put them all to work!

Then there's television. Closer than ever before, because of the luminous ball and the white glass. Guess who is interested in a series of TV specials? Johnny Carson! He has acquired a TV station in Las Vegas and is thinking about having us run a series of tournaments for television.

So between international competition, television and the expanded programs we have planned for schools and colleges, we think racquetball will enter the homes and

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hearts of every American. I would be overjoyed just to be able to duplicate the progress we made in the last 10 years.

The time has certainly come to show the respect and gratitude all our sponsors are entitled to. I just can't believe that many of our pros, and amateurs also for that matter, just assume that the hundreds of thousands of dollars, so willingly given by the sponsors, should be regarded lightly.

One day I am going to total all the shirts, bags, balls, trips, per diem and prize money to show you the generosity of our great big wonderful team. Would several million dollars surprise you? It would not surprise me!

Raising more than half a million dollars a year for prize money is a nightmare. It takes a lot more than players to make up a successful pro tour. One thing I do know ... it takes good players to make up a good tour. And by the same token it also takes good management and long range planning and knowing your way around the agency corridors. But most of all it takes IDEAS that generate business for our retailers as well as our court clubs.

I don't know what you sell, but my job is to sell racquetball. Anyone who is smart knows that you can't MISS with racquetball. I can think of only one fellow who missed. He was quite a sportsman, and one day he went to a hunting lodge where he bagged a record number of birds, aided by a dog named Salesman. The following year he returned and asked for Salesman again.

"That hound ain't no damn good anymore," the handler said.

"What happened?" cried the sportsman. "Was he injured?"

"No. Some fool came down here and called him 'Sales Manager' all week. Now all he does is sit on his tail and bark!"

Far be it from me to be a sales manager. Instead of barking I am just going to congratulate every one of you for your great performance last year and promise you more customers than you'll know what to do with next year. Like the Seamco Classic our tours will get bigger and better while the players double and triple. That's how we are going to say "thank you" to the RETAILERS OF AMERICA!

Evie , Bob Kendler

Evie and Bob Kendler

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me. Psalm 63:7-8

#### From the National Commissioner



#### Ten Thousand Junior Winners

The USRA has awarded the prestigious 1980 Leach/Seamco National Juniors Championship tournament to the Court Club in Indianapolis, IN, which will host the event August 11-16.

Our new expanded format of 14 regionals, with boys and girls in eight separate events — 17 and Under, 15 and Under, 12 and Under and 10 and Under — is bound to make this 1980 edition of the National Juniors the largest in the series' five year history, and we can expect the competition to produce another outstanding crop of young players.

Through the continued generous support of our sponsors — Leach and Seamco — we are awarding round trip air fare to the Nationals to all 112 regional winners. The winners of the Nationals also receive awards, including the \$1,500 Robert W. Kendler scholarships to the boy and girl winning their 17 and Under divisions.

The National Juniors program — with 50 state championships, 14 regional championships and the Nationals — is a program of competition and comaraderie that is meant for all Junior racquetball players.

Those who win and go on to careers in our sport gain much in prestige and feeling of accomplishment. (See "Playing for Pride" on page 17.) But those who don't win benefit as well. Some go on to play harder, play more and emerge even better racquetball players than the winners of the National titles. Others continue to play for fun — the fun of racquetball which they will carry through their entire lives as a way to stay physically and mentally fit.

This year over 10,000 boys and girls from eight through 17 will have participated in our National Juniors program. At the end of the season four boys and four girls will wear national champion crowns. The true success of the National Juniors is to make sure the other 9,992 feel like winners, too. Because they are.

Again this year our National Juniors competition is open to all boys and girls 17 and under. All parents are most welcome to attend and enjoy the excitement of watching their children compete.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Indianapolis.

Joe ardito
Joe Ardito

#### From Our Readers



#### Japanese Reader Wants to Play

Dear Editor:

It is with pleasure and interest I read National Racquetball magazine every month here in Tokyo.

I have neither played racquetball nor seen anyone play it. I wonder if you could tell me whether or not there is a racquetball club or court in Japan.

> Takao Honda Tokyo, Japan

Bill Kokoletsos of Strongwall Systems, just back from a trip to Japan, tells us that there is one YMCA in Tokyo with a few racquetball courts. Afraid we can't tell you which one. He also reports that Japan's first private racquetball club — a 10 court facility — is due to open this summer. ED

#### Living in a Racquetball Court

Dear Editor:

I just finished reading the interesting article on racquetball in the Indian Ocean by LCDR Rick Brown U.S.N. in the January, 1980, issue. As I am assigned to a base in Okinawa, another island in the South China Sea which has many avid racquetballers and an Okinawa Racquetball Association (ORA), I can attest to the rapid growth of the sport of racquetball in the Far East.

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To further update Diego Garcia racquetball facilities I think readers should be aware that courts on this vitally important island serve a dual purpose. They are currently in use as VIP quarters for visiting admirals. generals and other department of defense dignitaries. Complete with rugs, bunks, desks, etc. they serve as motel rooms and are used continually at the present time as both courts and living quarters due to the increased activitiy on the island and a shortage of living quarters to house visiting senior officers. I believe this could be a first in full time court utilization.

> CDR Glenn R. Allen, US Navy Okinawa

#### **Nuts and Bolts in Delaware**

Dear Editor:

May I take this opportunity to say a sincere "thank you" to the organizing committee, volunteers, players (some 342 entrants), sponsors/patrons and spectators of the second annual Luekemia Racquetball Classic held at the Branmar Racquetball Club in Wilmington, DE March 7-9. Although final figures are not complete, it appears that around \$8,000 was raised toward the fight against leukemia.

The Leukemia Racquetball Classic is unique in that it affords the opportunity for many people, not just a paid professional staff, to become involved in the "nuts and bolts" of running a tournament. Our people did a super job. Most matches were played ahead of schedule -- as much as 45 minutes. Tournament play was exciting-some of the best I've ever seen, and my congratulations go out to all the players, whether they won a trophy or not, because they were all winners in our fight against leukemia.

I'd like to extend thanks, too, to Bob Keenan, the USRA director, for his help in putting the tournament together.

> G. Eric Faddis Newark, DE

#### **Bunny Ball Feedback**

Dear Carol (Brusslan):

Yesterday I received a letter from a woman in Santa Fe. NM who read about me in National Racquetball's November article on how I make Bunny Balls from dead racquetballs. I thought - Oh NO! Not another Bunny Ball order - I had so many from people who read that article that I started gétting a little tired of packing and mailing them. At any rate she had another request. She was coming to a town 15 miles from Salem and hoped we could play. She is 56 years old, has played over

three years and every time she enters a tourney in the veterans division ends up stuck with some strapping 16-year-old. I know the feeling.

Through the article I also got to know the Hawaiian state chairman, Jane Goodsill, in Honolulu, where we go each summer. I hope to attend the pro/am tournament there in July.

Personally I'd like to see more articles for women - even recipes from various players. If we cooked the ways the pros do, maybe our games would improve!

> Eleanor Quackenbush Salem, OR

#### A College Cheer

Dear Bob (Keenan):

Congratulations on another great intercollegiate tournament. You and the staff at the University of Illinois in Champaign did a fantastic job.

I would also like to express my thanks to Charles Drake of Leach Industries and Al Mackie of Seamco Sporting Goods for their continued support of intercollegiate racquetball.

My teammates and I look forward to attending next year's event.

> Dan Cohen Memphis, TN

#### **Humor Too Black**

Dear Editor:

I still can't believe what I just read in your magazine! In "Inside the Master's Mind" in the April issue, Brumfield says, and I quote, "... after I've warned him as nicely as possible to move out of my way. I always hit the player as hard as I absolutely can in the back. Be sure that if you do hit the Crowder, you do it somewhere that won't cause permanent damage, but where you will cause at least an eight in pain threshold on a scale of one to ten." I cannot fathom why Brumfield would say something like this, and why you would then print it in your

This magazine is read by a lot of players just starting out in the game of racquetball, some of them quite young, who look to this magazine for guidance as well as instruction. In case you and Brumfield don't remember, there is a rule to take care of the intentional crowder, the Avoidable Hinder. Maybe if more avoidable hinders were called in instances of crowding and the Crowder knew he was going to lose a point or the serve for his actions, there would be fewer occurances of crowding on the court.

In the interest of safe racquetball and good sportsmanship. I think you should review your articles a little more carefully before you publish something that advocates a display of this nature. And then to call it good strategy, really!!!

> Randy Martin Bryan, TX

As we answered another reader in Opinions last month, Charlie Brumfield's humor sometimes borders on the sardonic. Sorry the black comedy in his instructional story threw you off. ED

#### Touring Europe with a Racquet

Dear National Racquetball:

As a regular reader I appreciate National Racquetball as a source of practical information. I'm sure you'll have the answer to the question I have now: Where can I play this summer when I'll be touring Europe?

> JoAnne Furu Ceresco, MI

Racket Center Westvliet in the Hague, the Netherlands, would be happy to have you play as a quest. Just tell them National Racquetball sent you. Last July CDR Glenn Allen's story, "Racquetball Around the Mediterranean," listed U.S. armed force bases in Europe where players are looking for stateside competition. Allen suggested that you write to the Base Athletic Director or call when you get there: U.S. Naval Air Facility; Signonella, Catania, Sicily: FPO New York 09523, San Vito Air Force Base; Brindisi, Italy; APO New York 09240. U.S. Naval Support Activity; Naples, Italy; FPO New York 09521. Torrejon Air Force Base (Spain); APO New York 09283. Naval Station Rota Spain; FPO New York 09540. Izmir (Turkey); APO New York 09324. Incirlik Air Base (Turkey); APO New York 09289. ED

#### Beginner's Lucky Seven

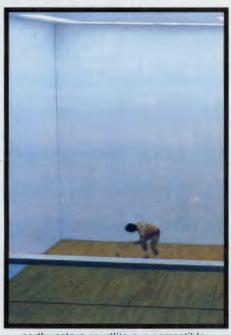
Dear Editor:

Six months ago the Playoff Club in Beverly, MA, was informed that we would be hosting the Seamco Pro-Am Classic, the seventh stop on the Pro Tour. Our initial reaction was one of euphoria; but as the tournament date approached, panic set in!! Everyone was tom between excitement and a case of nerves. No one really knew what to expect from the real professionals of racquetball. It wasn't until the evening before the first round matches were scheduled to start that we found ourselves very much at ease with everyone involved in the Pro Tour. It took people like Mary Konowitz, who was always there with a smile and words of encouragement;

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Joe Ardito, with his warm, friendly personality; and of course, pros like Jerry Hilecher, Steve Strandemo, Davey Bledsoe, Don Thomas, Dave Peck and Mike Yellen, who were all so warm and friendly. Within no time they made us feel that we had known them for years and made the weekend the most memorable event in the history of the Playoff Club in Beverly.

Mike Yellen, whom we can't say enough about, was one of the Playoff Club favorites since his visit with us in February. He returned to shock everyone with his well deserved upset victory over top seeded Marty Hogan. His "Great Victory" put the icing on the cake!

We want to thank each and every one of you for allowing us to be involved with such unbelievable people. We'll treasure the memories for ever. Thank you.

Sue Ekizian Fran Scotti Beverly, MA

#### **Vermont Pride**

Dear Dan Bertolucci:

I would like to express my appreciation for the tickets at the Pro-Am in Beverly, MA. This recognition gave me a feeling of pride in being a USRA State Chairman, knowing that all the effort I expend on behalf of racquetball promotion and the USRA is appreciated.

This was the first pro stop I had attended since the Pro-Am in Burlington, VT in the 1975-76 season. I was impressed with the professionalism of the USRA staff and the Playoff Club personnel.

By the way I'm happy to be able to inform you that luck was running with me at the USRA New England Regionals in Hartford, CT last April when I won the senior consolation first place trophy.

Tom O'Dwyer, Jr. Burlington, VT

#### Refereeing in Georgia

Dear Dan [Bertolucci]:

I had the privilege of seeing the finals of the pro division tournament May 4 in Atlanta. I enjoyed watching Yellen and Hilecher, but most of all I enjoyed seeing how you controlled the match.

I started playing racquetball in the summer of 1979. I would like to progress as a player, but I would also like to become a competent official.

My first experience as a referee was in a city tournament and now I'm ready for any

advice or information I can get that would help me become a better official. Does the USRA have any referee clinics? The first thing I read every month in *National* Racquetball is your column.

> Herb Maloney Montgomery, AL

The National Racquetball Referees
Association, which each USRA state
chairman supervises, will be holding
clinics around the country. In Georgia
contact Wayne Vincent, whose address
and phone number you'll find in our
amateur section. ED

#### An Eyeguard to Note

Dear Editor:

Your article in May on the eyeguard display was a bold and direct step to encourage players to wear eye protection. I'd like to call readers' attention to the Guardian Safety eyeguard, which serves in the area that eye doctors think there's the greatest need — to wear with prescription glasses. Guardian Safety is an inexpensive, attractive eyeguard that does fit over prescription glasses.

Paul Martino Danbury, CT feel they would be invaluable to my students and the rest of the players here at Kangaroo Courts.

The second point I'd like to make is that I feel there should be more racquetball camps on the east coast. As of this writing National Racquetball lists only one camp in this area, and that is in Rhode Island. Who ever heard of Rhode Island? I know New Jersey is not exactly the garden spot of the world, but in this area (New York and New Jersey) there are several hundred thousand racquetball players. Many of them cannot afford to take a trip out west to attend a camp. I don't understand why this market is not taken advantage of more often.

John Malone Bricktown, NJ

In answer to your first question you can write directly to Steve Strandemo — who puts together those wonderful court wall graphics for his National Racquetball instructional stories — at P.O. Box 26683, San Diego, CA 92126. As for your second question please refer to the June issue of National Racquetball in which the second camp story of the 1980 season lists camps in Boston, Philadephia and Poughkeepsie in addition to the one in that remote state of Rhode Island. ED

#### **Friendly Signature**

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kendler:

I enjoyed reading your one article on the relationship of handball to racquetball. I recall as a youngster, the tremendous enjoyment in handball.

I write to you as a handwriting analyst. I couldn't resist looking at the signature on your editorial.

It shows there is much compatibility, friendliness in the pleasant appearances and rounded formations. The family orientation, the extrovert qualities, the ability to communicate are all formulated in the good stroke balance. There is believing, understanding and strong cultural influences, with enjoyment of art, form, color and design.

Robert Wasserman San Mateo, CA

#### **East Coast Camps?**

Dear Steve [Strandemo]:

While reading your article, "Open Your Mind to Racquetball Camp," in the May issue two things came to mind which I hope you can help me with. First I would like to know how I can obtain a set of the wall markers, or the dimensions of same, shown in the picture on the title page. I

#### Thanks You All

Dear Dan, Joe, etc:

Just a quickie from your Georgia chairman and his wife to say we enjoyed the Catalina Classic East in Atlanta. Thanks for bringing yourselves and the pros down south again.

> Wayne and Ruth Vincent Atlanta, GA

#### Florida Appreciation

Dear Carol:

Thank you very much for the wonderful article on the Juniors. We all appreciate the exposure. We are in hopes that it will encourage others to do something for our kids as well.

Frederic A. Blaess Ft. Lauderdale, FL



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### Playing for Pride and for Fun

How Some of the Best Juniors Feel about their Nationals

The kid with the shock of straight blonde hair sat on his gym bag in the middle of Chicago's O'Hare airport . . . and cried. He'd just maneuvered a phone call to El Paso, and though his mom assured him from the other end that "Someone will meet you," he had his doubts.

Then a guy with a friendly grin, brighter than the button he was wearing announcing NATIONAL JUNIORS CHAPERONE, walked over, and Gregg Peck called out to Dan Bertolucci "Am I glad to see you!"

You know that time is fleeting when you remember that Chicago was four years ago and that that 12-year-old, kid brother of Top Pro Dave Peck, came close to winning a couple of Men's Open events this year on the NRC/USRA National Pro-Am tour and that twice he played well enough to qualify in the pro division.

And at the 1980 Juniors August 11 - 16 in Indianapolis Gregg Peck stands a chance of coming out winner of the Boys 17 and Under division.

Despite his shaky entrance Gregg Peck regards the National Junior competition as "the best I've ever taken part in - Chicago and all of them since. I'd rather go to the National Juniors than to any other tournament. In the pros you're just gaining experience, so you can play looser because you don't have anything to lose. It's tougher playing kids your own age because there's more pride at stake. You want to know you're better than they are, so there's more pressure on you. There are so many tough Juniors, it's unbelievable."

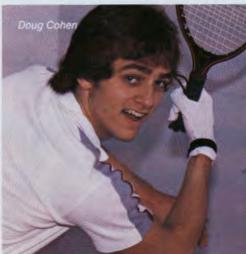


Among the heavies Gregg Peck will contend with is Rochester, NY's Mike Levine, also 16, whose 19th rank put him into the Men's Pro national competition June 1-7 in Las Vegas.

If Mike Levine meets Gregg Peck at the National Juniors, the match will be tense. Mike agrees that "to lose to someone your own age is harder to take than losing to a pro. There's a lot of peer group pressure."

Las Vegas' Bret Harnett, another 16-year-old in the running for the 17 and Under title, thinks "there's more pressure to win in the Juniors than the pros," but that "the pros are tougher." Young Harnett, the Nevada state champion who ranked 27th among pros and played in the Nationals, says "It's tougher to play in the pros because there aren't easy matches in any round."

Eighteen-year-old Doug Cohen, who shot into the number 14 spot in the pro rankings just a year out of the Juniors, regards the National Junior competition as a great training ground for pro play.









"I learned to be competitive — how to excel in tournaments," says the St. Louis native who lost to John Egerman in an 11-10 tie-breaker at last year's Boys 17 and Under National Juniors. "The Juniors taught me to train and provided me with the incentive — something to shoot for."

Now 17—Boise ID's Egerman, 15 and Under winner in 1978, sticks to pro tournaments only, but values his National Junior days. "Those tournaments gave me experience traveling around, competing against different styles of play — trying out different wall surfaces. They got me used to the idea of playing somewhere that's foreign to me."

John Klearman, who — like Doug Cohen — learned racquetball at the St. Louis JCC where Marty Hogan played, is only 15, but he qualified for the pro division at the Coors Classic in Denver and he currently ranks arnong the 40 best players.





"When it gets down to the semis, the Juniors are as challenging as the pros," says the player who's confident he'll take the Boys 15 and Under title in Indianapolis. "I think the National Juniors are as competitive, but I look at them mostly as a getaway from the other tournaments. The National Juniors are a real lot of fun."

Which is not so true upon graduation to the pro tour. "On the pro level there's no getting to know the others," John Egerman says. "It's a business to all those players. With the Juniors win or lose they'll be the same person. Juniors play for enjoyment."

Or, as Mike Levine puts it: "I look forward to the socializing. Despite the competition you still bring fun into it. The National Juniors gives you a chance to make lasting friends from all over the country."

Even if you might have to wait a few minutes until the chaperone finds you.

#### Scholarship Incentives



Since 1978 the boys and girls winning the 17 and Under divisions have also won college scholarships, which Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting goods have donated in honor of Robert W. Kendler, president of the USRA and NRC.

Scott Hawkins, 1978 winner, used his scholarship his freshman year at Santa Clara University in California, and Michelle Busacca began her education

at the University of California at Los Angeles with Robert W. Kendler scholarship aid.

The 1979 winners, John Egerman and Liz Alvarado, will use their scholarships when they enter college - John next fall at Boise State and Liz in the fall of 1981 at a college she'll be choosing next year when she'll be a high school senior.

#### Mort Levine's on the Road

#### **But He's Not Selling Chairs**

by Carole Charfauros

Racquetball players are getting younger and younger. Witness the King's Pro-Am in Orange County, CA. Three of the four semi-finalists in the men's amateur open were 15 years old. With teens turning pro before they are even old enough to obtain a driver's license, the question comes up about how they and their families adjust to a life on the road.

One such player is Mike Levine, just turned 16, number one Men's Amateur player and number 19 pro player going into the June Nationals. Accompanying Mike to the pro stops is his father, Mort, a furniture store owner in Rochester. NY, who once had ambitions of becoming a professional athlete himself.

"We can't let him travel alone," says Mort. "On the court he's a man, but otherwise he's still a kid. What are you supposed to dogive a kid a couple hundred dollars and tell him to go spend a couple weeks on the west coast?"

Mike says he thinks he could handle traveling alone, but knows his parents won't let him yet. "I just go and play," explains Mike. "He makes the reservations, picks up the plane tickets, rents the car. I'll be able to go on my own pretty soon . . . I think."

Mort knows that his son would travel alone if allowed to, but for now he convinces Mike that he enjoys traveling, "so he doesn't think I'm babysitting. But he goes off with his friends alone, if you notice. I don't interfere."

Being in business for himself allows Mort to take time off whenever he wants. Ironically he used to be a furniture manufacturer's representative, but guit and opened his own store nine years ago so he wouldn't have to travel so much. "Now I'm traveling even more than before," says Mort with a smile.

For Mike it's not easy to take the time off. He has to get ahead with his schoolwork before he leaves and then catch up when he gets back. For the back-to-back prostops in California ("We travelled farther than anyone"), Mike missed two full weeks of school, but his teachers are willing to help him out. Sometimes it's also necessary for Mike to get additional tutoring with his tenth grade work.

All of this is very expensive for the Levines. Ektelon pays Mike's way to the tournaments, but not his father's. His mother, Annette, drove to her first pro stop in Boston, but usually can't afford to go watch. "I don't want him to grow up," says Mort, "and say he didn't have the chance because his family wouldn't support him. He's too young to drive right now, so I chauffeur him to Nautilus and then to the court club and back every day."

Mike comes from a very sports minded family. His father played semi-pro football, despite his slight 5' 7" build, "but I was super fast." Three years ago his brother, Steve, 19, was the New York state high school wrestling champ at 126 pounds, and Steve now wrestles for Slippery Rock State college in Pennsylvania. The oldest, Gary, 21, is on Syracuse University's crew team. Mike's first dream was to play professional football, but he

#### Is There a Pro Life after the Juniors?

Emphatically so far the Boys 17 and Under winners of the National Juniors. Here's how those players are faring on the pro tour:

1976: Ben Koltun, St. Louis, ranked number eight going into the Nationals 1977: Larry Meyers, Oceanside, CA, ranked nine

1978: Scott Hawkins, Bakersfield, CA, ranked 21

1979: John Egerman, Boise, ID, ranked 20

Learn how Jim Winterton, Mike Levine's first instructor, thinks you should teach kids racquetball in a story on page 48.



stopped playing four years ago when he picked up racquetball. At 5'10" the youngest Levine is already the tallest in the family, but Mike's growth spurt was only in the last year or so.

"I think my game has really improved since I've gotten taller. When I first lost to John Klearman in the 13 and Under division of the Nationals, he was taller than me. Then when I beat him last year in the 15 and Under, I was taller."

Mike was just 13 years old when he flew to the National Juniors with his coach, Jim Winterton.
Winterton was Mike's English teacher at the time. When Mike heard that Jim was an A racquetball player, he kept pestering him to play. Mort remembers that "Mike"

was like Chinese water torture. He wouldn't let Jim alone. When they finally played, Mike got killed 21-0. The first thing he said after the game was over was 'Play me another!'

Mort had promised to fly to Chicago to join Jim and Mike if his son made it to the quarters, never suspecting that he would. But keeping his word, Mort hopped on a plane and watched his son win the quarters before losing to Klearman in the semis. "John was a player already. Mike had only been playing six months. I don't know how he ever finished third."

But Mike has grown, emotionally as well as physically, since he first started playing tournaments. At one time he was known for outburts on the court. His father acknowledges it, but says Mike has improved. "He used to expend too much energy arguing with the referee. He would carry an argument in his mind and lose the next two or three points. I told him he better shape up or I wouldn't let him play."

Mike doesn't think he was ever that bad. "If an older guy says something to the ref it's showmanship or intimidation. But if a kid says anything, he's acting like a kid."

Like a kid with enough fighting spirit for a dozen grown men. "Nobody likes to lose," concedes Mike on the way to his match, "but I can't stand to lose." Already Mort is reminding his son to loosen up, but no one has to remind him to fire up.

### **Fastest Cars Ready** For Juniors









Juniors who race around a racquetball court will see the cars that have raced around the Indianapolis Speedway during the fifth annual USRA Junior Nationals August 11-16 in the famous Indiana town.

On a field trip to the Speedway's Hall of Fame, located inside the track between the No. 1 and No. 2 tums, the racquetball kids will admire 60 famous cars, including those that won 22 of the annual Indianapolis 500 mile events, which have taken place since 1909.

Four of those cars were two time winners: The Boyle Maserati, driven by Wilbur Shaw in 1930 and 1940, the Blue Crown Spark Plug Special (Mauri Rose 1947-48), the Fuel Injection Special (Bill Vukovich, 1953-54) and the Belond Special (Sam Hanks in 1957 and Jimmy Bryan in 1958).

The Juniors will put their hands on the kinds of machinery that keep the cars moving when they visit the Children's Museum, which features a Science Spectrum gallery filled with pulleys, lights, buzzers and bells. Other highlights of the Children's Museum, the world's largest, are a 10,000-year-old mastodon and a replica of a dinosaur, as well as Wenuhotep, a 3,000-year-old mummy that lies in state inside the Egyptian tomb room.

A trip to the more recent past is the scheduled visit to the Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, where potters, weavers, cooks, spinners and blacksmiths will take the Juniors back to a central Indiana settlement as it looked in 1836.

August 11-16, 1980

## Leach/Seamco **National Junior**

**EYEGUARDS** RECOMMENDED

### Racquetball Championships

ENTRY DEADLINE: All entry blanks and corresponding entry fees must be in the possession of tournament director by Friday, August 1, 1980. No phone entries.

SITE: The Court Club, 3455 Harper Road, Indianapolis, IN, 317-846-1111

FACILITIES: 14 regulation racquetball courts, complete spa, hot tub and nearby bowling center.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All participants must be current USRA members in good standing. Membership applications and renewals should accompany entry fee at time of mailing. Membership fee is \$12. Juniors are required to play in the same age division they were eligible for at the USRA Junior Regionals held July 17-20, 1980.

RULES: Official USRA rules apply. No player having accepted \$1,000 or more in prize money on the NRC sanctioned pro tour within the last 12 months may enter.

AWARDS: Trophies to first four places in all events, plus first two places in consolation rounds. Also special Robert W. Kendler college scholarship awards to the boys and girls 17 and Under winners.

SANCTION: by United States Racquetball Association (USRA) and the Indiana State Racquetball Association (INSRA)

**OFFICIAL BALL: Seamco 600** 

ENTRY FEE: \$20 per event, Limit, one event per player.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS: Holiday Inn North, 3850 DePauw Blvd., Indianapolis 46260, 317-299-7370. Room rates — \$39 single, \$47 double, \$51 poolside, \$51 King Leisure. Ask for Debbie for reservations. Or Red Roof Inn, 9520 Valparaiso Ct., Indianapolis 46260, 317-293-3030.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USRA National Juniors

MAIL COMPLETED ENTRY AND CHECK TO: USRA National Juniors, 4101 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076, Attn: Dan Bertolucci

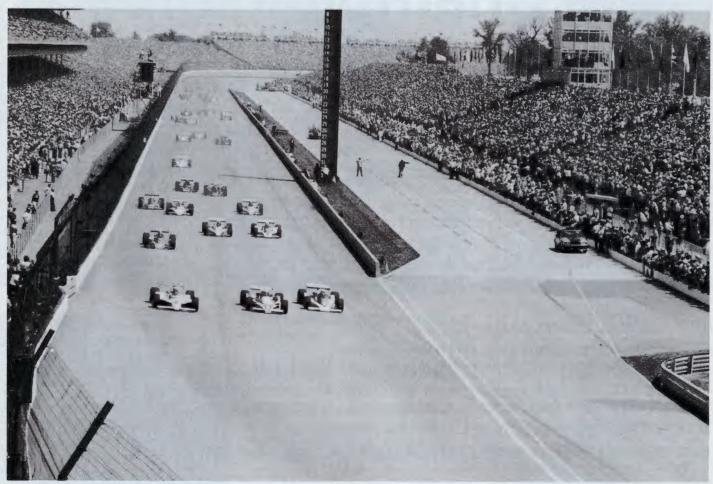
NOTE: All players should plan to arrive Sunday, August 10, and play will start on August 11 in all divisions. Make sure you ask for Debbie (reservations) at the Holiday Inn or you will be told the hotel is sold out.

PLEASE ENTER ME IN:				SHIRT SIZE -	SHIRT SIZE - BOY:			GIRL:	
	Boys 17 and Under		Girls 17 and Under			Small		Small	
	Boys 15 and Under		Girls 15 and Under			Med.			
	Boys 12 and Under		Girls 12 and Under			Large		Large	
	Boys 10 and Under		Girls 10 and Under			XL		XL	

WAIVER: I understand it is your intention to have my participation hereunder recorded on videotape for presentation on TV and elsewhere, and I expressly agree that you shall have the unlimited right and authority to use and exploit your coverage of the series, the videotape, and any and all forms of reproduction thereof in any and all media in perpetuity in whatever manner and by whatever means and wherever you may desire without any obligation to pay any monies to me except as hereinabove expressly provided. Such recordings shall without limitations be the sole property of NRC/USRA to deal with, broadcast, sell, license, rent, exhibit, and otherwise use or reuse in whole or in part as the NRC/USRA see fit.

I hereby acknowledge and agree to the limitations and conditions of all tournament rules. Furthermore I hereby certify that I am fully qualified under said limitations and conditions.

I hereby for myself and my agents waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I might have against the Court Club, the U.S. Racquetball Association, Seamco Sporting Goods Company, Leach Industries, and any of their agents, for any and all injuries received by me in connection with this tournament.



	Parent Signature		and the second s
Name			Age
Address			
City		State	Zip
Phone: Area Code	Number		

#### All Eyes On Indianapolis For USRA National Juniors

Make way for the Juniors — They're ready to roll!

Well it's that time of year again to start to think about who will be the 1985 opponent for Marty Hogan, a future Mike Yellen, or Ben Koltun. Another future McKay perhaps, No. one really knows for sure, but one thing you can bet on is that most likely he or she will come out of the Leach/Seamco National Juniors Program sanctioned by the United States Racquetball Association. That program will be on display in championship form August 11-16.

The Court Club in Indianapolis, IN will be the host site with its 14 courts, snack bar and seating for 200 for this fifth annual Junior Championships.

"We're as proud as can be to have been selected as the host for this most prestigious event," said Lady Dillman, Court Club Manager, who is working with the USRA staff on the tournament. "The excitement that we feel already will lead to a successful event for every participant."

"This tournament — with its central U.S. location - should draw the largest field ever and should prove to be the pinnacle for the juniors season," said Joe Ardito, National Racquetball Commissioner. "We guarantee a good time for everyone."

This year's competition, again cosponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods, will feature some new age brackets with consolation rounds in all of them. They are Boys/Girls 17 and Under, 15 and Under, 12 and Under, and 10 and Under. The first four finishers will receive awards, as will the first two finishers in the consolation rounds. The Boys 17 and Under and Girls 17 and Under winners will receive \$1,500 Robert W. Kendler College Scholarships. Some of the rules that parents should know about the Junior Nationals include:



- All players will be on their own. If parents want their kids chaperoned, they should be there with them or make prior arrangements. Many parents from the same area are sending their kids in a group with one or more adults responsible.
- A player must be an amateur. No player having accepted \$1,000 or more in prize money over the past 12 calendar months can compete.
- Players must play in the same age classification in which they played during the Junior Regionals. If a player did not compete in the Junior Regionals then he or she must compete in the age category that would have been in effect on July 17, 1980.

(For example if a 16th birthday was on July 17 or later, the entrant would play in the 15 and Under category. If 16 before July 17 the 17 and Under category.)

 There will be no charge at any time to watch the matches. Players, spectators, parents and friends will all be admitted free.

"The idea of the National Juniors is for everybody to have a good time with racquetball as the common denominator," said Ardito. "It's costing many people a lot of money just to get here. We're not going to hit them for admission fees."

Juniors will enjoy field trips to Conner Prairie Pioneer Settlement, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Car Museum and the famous Indianapolis Children's Museum, along with the competition.

Just like the ones before it the 1980 event will be one the kids will remember for a long time. The dates -August 11-16, 1980 for the Leach/-Seamco Junior Nationals. See you there!

If you have questions, call Dan Bertolucci at 312-673-4000.

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## Bonnie Stoll's Racquetball Prescription

by Frank J. Frangione

Frangione, who eamed a Ph.D. in exercise physiology at the University of Michigan, is director of the Human Performance Laboratory of Life Sciences in New Haven, CT.

Every athlete knows that practicing the game is only half the route to tournament wins.

Racquetball players are especially aware of off court ways to improve their games when there's a fitness center operating in conjunction with their club.

Last summer our staff at the Human Performances Laboratory of Life Sciences, adjacent to the Downtown Racquet Club in New Haven, CT, asked Bonnie Stoll, 1979 USRA Northeast regional winner, to come in for a series of tests that would indicate her level of fitness. The program we prescribed for Bonnie improved her overall physical condition and — ultimately — her prowess on the court.

Her conditioning regime paid off in April when Bonnie Stoll won the Women's Open at the Seamco Classic Pro/Am in Beverly, MA.

The photos tell the story.

We determined Bonnie's Cardiovascular endurance capacity (photo 1) by running her to exhaustion on a motor driven treadmill. Maximal oxygen uptake (VO2 max), the single best index of cardiovascular endurance capacity, was determined from this test. The higher the state of an athlete's training, the higher the oxygen uptake. Bonnie's oxygen uptake was 46.4 militers of oxygen per kilogram of body weight per minute. This value was higher than those of the average college age female, but lower than that of endurance trained athletes, e.g. long distance runners.

Photo 1 Measuring cardiovascular endurance capacity





Photo 2 Measuring quadriceps-hamstring strength with a Cybex II isokinetic dynamometer

Strength is the force a muscle or a muscle group can exert against a resistance in one maximal effort. An individual's muscle endurance and power are dependent on the individual's strength level. We measured Bonnie Stoll's quadricepshamstring strength (front part of thigh and back part of leg) with a Cybex II isokinetic dynamometer (photo 2). Successful racquetball players maintain a high leg strength to body weight ratio. Ideally athletes should strive to have quadriceps strength equal to body weight. Bonnie's quadriceps strength was equal to 51.2 percent of her body weight. Recommendation: Do three sets of eight to 10 knee extension and flexion exercises on either Mini-Gym, Nautilus or Universal equipment.

Flexibility is also important to the racquetball player. Research indicates that the flexible player is more proficient and is less prone to serious injury. Flexible muscles prevent muscle injuries, particularly in racquetball with its rapid limb movements. On the other hand too much flexibility may be harmful. Consequently flexibility should be developed to a degree which will prevent injury, but not so extreme to result in joints which are too loose. We measured Bonnie's joint flexibility with a normal goniometer (photo 3). Her hamstrings and calf muscles had less than desired flexibility. Recommendation: Employ string and calf stretching exercises before and after court workouts to avoid strains and muscle pulls.

Both novice and expert racquetball players should have a "physiological profile" and "exercise prescription" of the type suggested in this article. Bonnie Stoll's test results indicate that even high ranking players can benefit from a program that increases strength, flexibility and aerobic capacity.



Photo 3 Testing hamstring muscle flexibility with a manual goniometer

Recommendation: Supplement racquetball playing with running 10 to 15 miles per week, including interval training (alterate periods of fast and slow exercise, e.g. sprint 100 yards,

jog 100 yards for 10 repetitions). This type of cardiovascular endurance training helps Bonnie keep up the pace in the final game or tie-breaker.

#### **Handle with Care**

Chuck Spaulding's Motto Works in 23 Clubs

by Judith Neisser



Chuck Spaulding

This is another story in *National Racquetball's* series on people who have made major contributions to racquetball's success.

Chuck Spaulding cares about people. There is no question about that. The dapper, balding superjock (He's a former Missouri state tennis doubles champion and football player, presently a golfer and racquetball player), born in Kansas City, MO, 62 years ago, has infused his 23-club operation with the kind of tender loving care philosophy primarily associated with MOM, apple pie and everything wholesome and good about this country. By his own description "an earnest Christian Scientist" he sprinkles his converation with such familiar phrases as "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and "You've gotta give before you get." Spaulding has applied these "golden rules" to both his personal and business life, and they have worked for him.

In May of 1973 Charles A. Spaulding opened his first club with four employees, and today, almost seven years later, he owns and operates 23 clubs in 10 cities and employs over 350 people. At the end of the company's first fiscal year, August 31, 1974, Spaulding Racquetball Clubs' gross sales were \$122,000, and for the year ending August 31, 1979, the organization grossed over \$3,000,000. However these figures just apply to membership and court time revenues. Spaulding's Products and Services Division — a management consulting service for club owners (For a fee, the company provides building materials. plans and operational expertise) generated over \$1,000,000 in earnings in 1979.

A father of four grown sons (Spaulding's youngest son, Dave, 29, is secretary of the company) and a strong family man Spaulding promoted his clubs from the



Chuck Spaulding, newly elected president of the National Court Clubs Association, makes a point during a question and answer period at the group's January convention in Sarasota, FL.

beginning as modestly priced family oriented operations. As he puts it: "a country club at a YMCA price." This slogan, however, was short-lived. "The YMCA people took offense," says Spaulding in his soft-spoken, midwestern drawl, gently shaking his head. "Actually I didn't mean that statement as a detriment; I meant it as a compliment. I was describing my club as a place where anybody could afford to be a member. Actually we pioneered this particular concept for the racquetball industry. The (very) early clubs were like the tennis clubs or the country clubs. They had charge accounts plus they included all of the amenities: restaurants, masseuses, etc.; that means expense."

And that's just what Spaulding wanted to avoid: high-priced, multiservice operations. He claims to have modeled his business after Ray Kroc's McDonald's hamburger chain. "Kroc's KISS philosophy (keep it simple stupid) has produced the biggest business success of our time. He took a product — a hamburger – a relatively simple thing and sophisticated it, professionalized it, organized it, operated it and merchandized it so well that it became a billion dollar business. McDonald's appeals to people from all walks of life. And that's what influenced me. I, too, wanted both the Mercedes and the Volkswagens in my parking lots."

#### **Horse Sense**

Spaulding brings not only a strong humanistic approach to the racquetball industry but also an impressive backlog of business experience and good, old, midwestern horse sense.

After he graduated from Principia College in St. Louis in 1938, he worked for two years for a motion picture advertising firm in New York. In 1940, after the business was sold, he was hired by a company in Omaha, NE, which developed and manufactured drinking water filters for the Armed Forces during World War II, as well as water softeners under the Homart brand name for Sears Roebuck. "I stayed with Refinite for 18 years. I started as a salesman, and I ended up president of the company. They kept dumping jobs on me," he recalls with a smile.

After the war the company adapted and manufactured their filtration system for swimming pools, and this led to Spaulding's plunge into the swimming pool business.

"One day I suddenly saw the great potential of the recreational pool business. In those days the only people building pools were the basement contractors who were pouring square concrete boxes. So I started experimenting and developed a free form method of pouring concrete pools."

In 1959 he left Refinite Corporation to become president of Paddock of California — "then the biggest swimming pool company in the country." He stayed there for only three years. "Paddock had a substantial sales volume, but it was plagued with internal problems," he explains. "In addition it was a public company, and I didn't control it. Six months after I took over as president the stock jumped from \$2.50 a share to around \$20 a share. I met with top investment analysts in New York and Boston, and I warned them that it would take at least a couple of years

to build up a good solid company. But then I'd walk out of their offices, and the stock would go up five points. Nobody was interested in waiting around for two or three years to get a return, and I finally realized that there was no way I could build this company fast enough to keep up with the investors' expectations. So I left Paddock, and a year or so later - the company was bankrupt. I then got into the building materials business." (He pursued this interest for the next 10 years until he was seduced by a fledgling new sport - racquetball.)

#### Harvest

He continues with obvious concern. "The racquetball business has been besieged by the same pattern of thinking that plagued the swimming pool industry. That's why the get-richquick clubs usually go broke. To me business is like farming. You get out of it what you put into it. If you're not willing to fertilize it, and cultivate it, and plow back into it, you're in trouble. You may reap a quick first harvest, but if you are unwilling to invest a lot of time, energy and money, the business will reap less and less returns each year, and finally you'll have nothing."

Spaulding's basic common sense, business expertise and strong Christian ethic are reflected throughout the Manchester, MO, club which houses several racquetball courts as well as the company's executive offices staffed by a group of employees who exude both friendliness and concem. The club's lobby and private offices are attractively decorated in earthtones, grass cloth and plaid carpeting. Locker rooms are clean and well-equipped with showers and whirlpools, and that's about it. Refreshments can be purchased from a soft drink machine. According to Ann Spaulding, Chuck's blond, attractive wife of 40 years, Spaulding has always insisted on an ambience of courtliness and old fashioned respectability at his clubs.

Spaulding, front row, third from right, cuts the ribbon that marks the official opening of his 23rd club, this one his ninth in suburban St. Louis.

"I remember when Chuck was designing his first club, he was adament about two things: one, that the club should never smell like a gymnasium (because of the women) and two: that the women's locker room would be placed on a different level than the men's." "That's true." Spaulding interjects. "I wanted to make sure that the girls would neither hear nor see nor be exposed to anything that might offend them or their parents. But," he sighs, "the picture has changed somewhat. First we've taken over (the operation of) several clubs (around the country) that weren't designed with the Spaulding philosophy in mind. And second, with the rapid escalation of building costs, we are no longer able to do exactly what we'd like to do."

But one thing Spaulding does like to do and is still able to do is "make racquetball available to the entire family, and probably more than anybody else in the business to women and children." The practical midwestemer smilingly admits that his reasons are not totally altruistic.

"I feel that the big market long range is in the area of women and children. I was afraid that if racquetball became a jock sport, it would never be that popular, and from the beginning, I was convinced that it could be the next big sport in this country. And I think that's happened."

#### Women and Children

He draws women and children to his clubs by offering them a variety of programs, clinics, parties and leagues in which to participate. Currently there are approximately 5,000 women participating in women's leagues at the 23 Spaulding Clubs. These leagues consist of women at every skill level — from beginners to tournament players. Paramount to the success of these leagues are the bright, modern nursery facilities provided by Spaulding at each of his clubs for a nominal fee. But they offer more than just babysitting. The





The president and founder of the country's largest club chain plays racquetball on the average of three times a week.



The women's program director at each Spaulding club coordinates leagues, clinics and tournaments, like the annual Valentine event. Five directors displaying their tournament shirts are, left to right, Judy Voss, Lece Meyer, Carol Mickes, Ann Wirrik and Iona Long.

children enjoy a nursery school type program created by professionals in the field of early childhood education.

In addition two years ago Spaulding introduced an after school league for high school age boys. Today both boys and girls participate in league program play. Many of the clubs also provide such activities for youngsters from the ages of eight to 13. And recently clubs in Kansas City and St. Louis implemented a Pee Wee League for preschoolers. This program is designed to increase not only the child's hand-eye coordination and body awareness but also his/her self-esteem and ability to relate to the peer group.

In January of this year, Spaulding was elected President of the National Court Club Association (NCCA) for 1980. In his acceptance speech he dubbed racquetball "the greatest individual sport in America today" and vowed to do his utmost "to promote racquetball and racquetball ownership in the most favorable way." Elaborating on this statement he says with feeling: "I tell my own organization that we're going to be as big as we deserve. And I think that racquetball as a sport is going to be as big as it deserves.

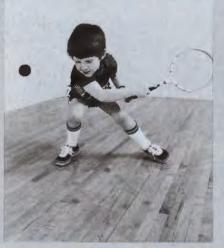
"And if we're really interested in making it a quality sport — a high class way for people to have fun racquetball's (growth) potential is unlimited."



Instruction, rather than baby sitting. is the aim of each Spaulding club nursery.











"The younger the better" is how racquetball playing parents feel about getting their kids involved in the sport.

So to meet that request teachers in Spaulding Clubs around the country have developed Pee Wee Leagues for children ages three to six. Using sawed off badminton racquets — with a lot of hitting surface —the small players are developing hand-eye coordination and gaining the confidence they'il need when they switch to the conventional game.

—Lauren Shay photos taken at Spaulding Club, Highland Park, IL

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### Ask the Champ

by Marty Hogan

Two Time and Current National Champion Marty Hogan, a Leach player, answers questions about improving your game in this exclusive National Racquetball series, Write to Marty Hogan, do Ask the Champ. Nathanal Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokle, IL 60076.

Question: I don't like to use the ceiling ball because it always falls right in front of my opponent. Is the ceiling really important to my game? Bob Gurvitz Munster, IN

Hogan: Yes the ceiling ball is very important to your game. If the celling ball is falling short of your opponent. that means you're just not hitting it hard enough. To hit a correct ceiling ball aim for the ceiling about three feet from the front wall. This angle will put the ball in deep court after the first bounce. The reason the ceiling ball is important is because it's the only true defensive shot in the game. One thing that may help you out in your game is to remember that whenever you get in trouble, take the next shot up to the ceiling. This will give you enough time to get back in the rally.

Question: When should you hit a pass shot versus a kill shot?

Marion Cesarini San Francisco

Hogan: You should always use the pass shot to set up your kill shot. All the kids coming into the game today only think in terms of one shot rallies. All the pros on the four use different shots as strategy to set up their opponents. None of the pros go out and shoot every ball. The odds against killing every ball are too great and they would end up just beating themselves. What a pro will do is hit two or three pass shots in the course of a rally, work his opponent into deeper court and then go for the kill shot. What this also does is after a few pass shots your opponent tends to lag in deep court, making it so your

kill shots do not have to be so precise to be winners. A pass shot is also a smart shot to use as a service return. You can either take it wide angle by your opponent or try to hit it two feet high down the line - anything that just keeps the ball off the back wall. The only time you would attempt a kill off a service return would be a plum off the back wall.

Question: I'm a beginning player and having trouble converting from a tennis to a racquetball forehand. What do you suggest?

Uno Pett Houston, TX

Hogan: Tennis players all hit with a stiff wrist. First rule of racquetball is to keep your forearm and wrist loose There is no wrist snap in tennis, which is something you'll need to learn in coverting to racquetball. Also in tennis the swing is mainly done with a stiff arm. In racquetball the correct swing would be that in which the arm is bent at the elbow at about 90 degrees. Also in tennis - when hitting the ball the racquel and the elbow come through at the same time, and in racquetball you should always come through leading with the elbow following with the racquet and then snapping your wrist upon contact.

Something you may work on is just going on a racquetball court by yourself and hitting forehands, making sure the elbow is bent at a 90 degree angle. It's also good to get a partner, have him hold your racquet and swing while he's holding your racquet back, This will give you that feeling of pulling your elbow through first. Work on that pulling the elbow through with your partner until it becomes natural for you to swing in this fashion.

I play tennis while I'm on the pro racquetball tour and I do not find that either game hurts the other. It's just Important to be aware the differences in the fundamentals of the swing,

Question: With a shortage of racquetball courts in New York City I sometimes have to end up playing racquetball in a squash court. How can I help my racquetball game when I play it in a squash court? Barbi Padorr New York, NY

Hogan: You can do more for your racquetball game by playing squash in a squash court than by playing racquetball in a squash court. Decause the squash court is shorter and narrower than a racquetball court, you'll find that you can't estimate where the ball would have landed had you been playing in a racquetball court. The best way to work on your racquetball game is to take the squash racquet and ball into the squash court and practice hitting right above the tell tale (the tin that extends above the floor on the front wall). That kill in squash is a pass shot in racquelball. Getting into the groove of hitting a ball to a particular spot on the wall will improve your skill in both

Another thing that squash will improve upon is your knowledge of angles in the court. After a few games of squash you will notice an immediate improvement in your pass shot, both down the line and cross court. Also you will get much better at cutting the ball off up front. These are necessary requirements in a good squash player's game that will help your racquetball game. •

#### Pattern for a Winner

#### Shape, Not Speed, Behind Z Serves Success

#### by Steve Strandemo

A good baseball pitcher knows he can't get by forever on a blazing fastball.

Sooner or later the hitters will know that's all he can throw, and they will be up on their toes, waiting for the fastball, and they will knock it into next Wednesday.

The best pitchers, therefore, have more than one pitch. Most of them have three or more. They'll throw the fastball, a curve, the change-up, a slider, a knuckleball, a forkball, a sinker. They may go to the fastball when they need their best pitch, but they'll have a pretty good mastery of some of the others.

The same principle applies to racquetball. The player who hits the low-drive serve time after time sooner or later becomes predictable.

The player may be very effective with the low drive to both comers, but if he uses it constantly, the opposition will be able to time its speed and direction, and it becomes less overpowering.

To be a consistently good player you need more than one serve. In this article we'll discuss the Z serve, which still comes into the back court with a lot of pace on it, but is as different from the low drive as the curve is from the fastball.

The Perfect Shape

The Z serve's major difference is that it puts three walls into play. A perfectly hit Z serve into the right front comer will hit the front wall, the right side wall, then shoot diagonally across the court toward the opposite back comer. It will hit the floor once, carom off the side wall in the back comer and die before it comes off the back wall.

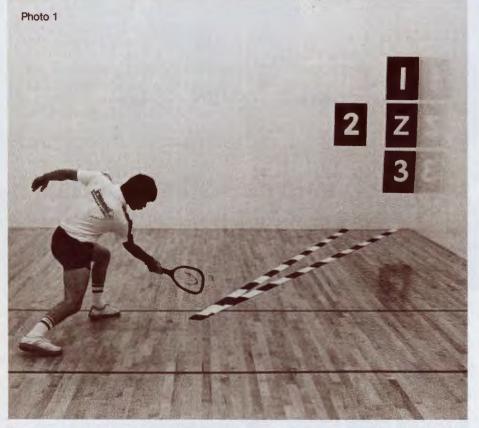
That is the pattern you should keep in mind for a good Z serve: front-sidefloor-opposite side, and keep it off the back wall. The serve should be hit with good velocity, but it is most important to keep the ball in the "Z" pattern. The pattern actually is more crucial to success than velocity. Hit the serve with the maximum velocity that allows you to still be accurate. It is better to hit the serve at 80 miles per hour and keep it in the pattern, than hitting it 95 miles per hour and miss the proper angles.

When you hit a good Z serve in the proper pattern, a couple of different things can happen to the ball as it comes off the side wall in the back corner.

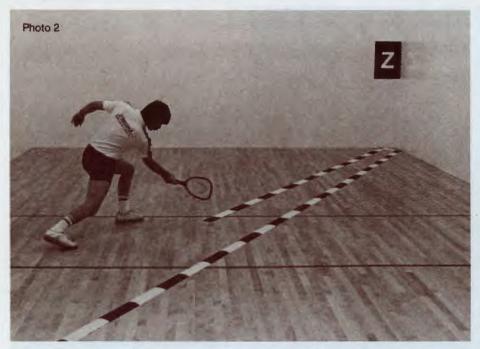
Sometimes it will bounce straight out from the side wall, parallel to the back wall. You can see how effective this can be if you have hit the ball nice and tight into the back comer. When it comes straight out off the side wall, it will be paralleling the back wall at a distance of only six to eight inches. Many times a serve like that will go for an unreturnable ace.

Other times the ball comes diagonally off the side wall and angles toward the back wall. This is still a very effective serve, though it gives the opponent a little more room to get his racquet on it.

The differences in these effects are related to the velocity of the serve, the liveliness of the ball and the texture of the side wall. Practice your serves



These are the areas on the front wall that the ball may strike when you are hitting a Z serve. The proper target area, marked "Z," is about head high and the correct distance from the side wall. A ball hitting in areas one or three will follow the proper angle into the back corner but will arrive there too high or too low to be very effective. Area two will send the ball into the wrong pattern. Keeping the ball in the proper pattern is very important when hitting the Z.

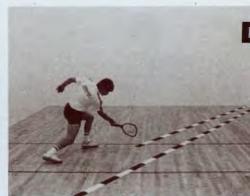


The server is hitting a proper Z serve from the middle of the service box. The ball hits the Z target area and angles across court into the opposite back corner as shown. The defender must either try to cut the ball off before it reaches the side wall in the back corner, or hit it just as it comes off the side wall. If she lets it reach the back wall, the ball will die before it comes back out. Usually the ceiling ball is the best return off a good Z serve.



with different balls and at different speeds to see how your serve tends to react.

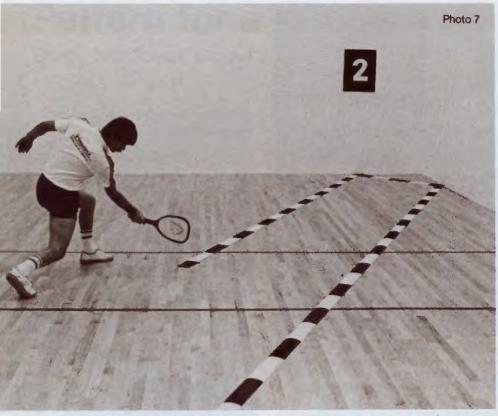
Look at the Z serve front wall target area. The proper target is about head high, right in the corner. Stand in the middle of the service box and hit the serve with good pace until you consistently get the ball in the proper pattem.



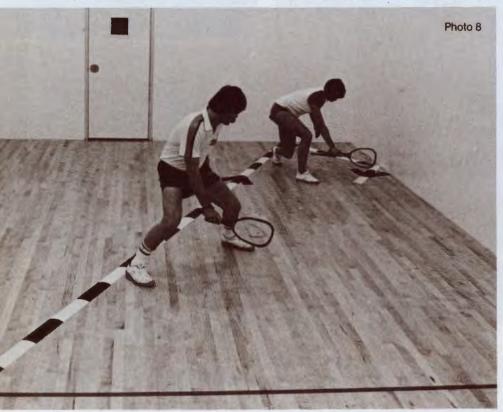




The server is hitting the front wall too high, in area one. The ball will take the proper angle, but it hits too deep in the back corner and caroms off the side wall and back wall, into hittable range in the middle part of the back court. The server must move to the right to open up the opponent's rightful hitting lanes. The returner must have an open opportunity to hit the return straight into the front wall, or cross court to the side of the court the server is on. The server in Photo 6 is blocking those lanes and can be called for an avoidable hinder.



The server is hitting the front wall too far left of the proper target area. This ball will have the correct height, but it will not be in the proper Z pattern. It will carom off the back wall before it hits the side wall. This is a much easier serve to return. Note that the server can move into the left side of the court to get set up for coverage of the return.



Remember think about the pattern first. Within that pattern, work on improving your pace.

#### Covering a Poor Z

Nobody can hit a perfect Z serve every time. That being the case the smart player also studies where the ball is going to go when he hits the Z poorly. Knowing that he can move quickly into the proper coverage position for the return, and ready himself for the third shot of the rally.

When you miss the Z target area, the ball generally will hit the front wall in areas one, two or three (photo one).

If the ball hits in area one, it will have the proper angle as it comes out of the front comer, but it will bounce too high in the back corner and come off the back wall in a very hittable range. When this happens, the server must move to the right side to give the returner his rightful shot opportunities. You must give him a clear shot either straight into the front wall, or for the cross court pass attempt to the side of the court the server is on. If you block either of these lanes, you can be called for an avoidable hinder.

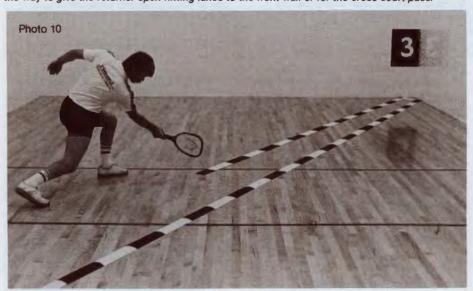
When you hit into area two, the Z serve will not take the proper pattem. It will hit the front-side-floor part of the pattem, but then it will kick off the back wall before it hits the opposite side wall. This will make the return much easier for your opponent. Notice the server can move into good return position (see Photo eight) on the left side of center court. The problem is he's given his opponent a plum off the back wall.

A ball hitting in area three will land short on the floor in the back court and never reach the back wall. Instead it will come off the side wall, allowing the returner plenty of court to set up for a good return. Again don't commit the avoidable hinder. Move off to the right side of center court. Get in the

Turn the page for Mike Yellen's story explaining how a Z serve differs from the Z ball you'd hit in a rally.



This serve comes too low off the front wall and lands far too short in the back corner. The ball will carom off the side wall and never reach the back wall, because it has bounced into good returnable range in the middle part of the back court. The server must remember to move out of the way to give the returner open hitting lanes to the front wall or for the cross court pass.



best legal position to cover his pinch, down-the-line or cross court attempt.

As you are practicing the Z serve watch your misses; see where they go. You might even aim a few at areas one, two and three to give you a good idea where you should position yourself when it happens in actual play. If you can "read" the ball as it

comes off the front wall, you know where it's going to go every time.

That's where the racquetball player working on a new serve has the advantage over the baseball pitcher. If you happen to hit a bad one, you can still get into some kind of position to do something about it. Nobody ever hit a racquetball out of the park.

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## Z Ball: The Rabbit in the Hat

by Mike Yellen

Mike Yellen of Southfield, MI, in his third year on the tour, has kept racquetball fans on the edge of the bleachers through two consecutive National Championships. When not competing Mike spends much of his time on the road giving racquetball clinics on behalf of his sponsor, Ektelon. In this series of exclusive columns, Mike shares with National Racquetball readers some of the techniques which he explains and demonstrates in his clinics around the country.

As any good sleight-of-hand artist worth his tuxedo knows, diversion and confusion are his greatest alliles. Slip the coin up your sleeve with one hand while waving the other around in another direction and don't show the same trick to the same audience too many times.

That's a good policy to follow when using the Z ball too. A good-foralmost-nothing shot the Z ball's effectiveness depends on the degree of surprise and confusion it can create in your opponent's mind.

It's primarily a defensive shot designed to drive your opponent into the back court. In most circumstances, though, a ceiling ball will serve you better.

Because of its lack of overall effectiveness, you won't encounter the Z ball too often in matches. But that also means that most players won't be used to the shot, so you should be able to reach way down for it in your bag of tricks and toss it out for a quick point or two when you need it most.

Best of all it can get you out of some tight situations. The classic example of this is the occasion when you are lurching into a side wall trying to scoop up a shot dying in the fore court.

Normally you would want to go for a kill, pinch or low pass up there, depending on your opponent's position. The percentages reverse on you, though, if you are off-balance and trying to dig the ball out of the floorboards.

Remember your opponent will have you in full view and be able to quickly move into position to cover a kill or pass that isn't executed properly.

A Z ball gives you a reasonable chance of success and allows you time to get back into position for your opponent's return. In addition it's such a crazy shot that, if not handled properly by your opponent, it might just tum into a point winner.

As the name implies, this shot makes a "Z" pattern in flight hitting at least three out of the four walls before touching down.

It first strikes the front wall near one of its side wall seams, then the nearest side wall and finally the opposite side wall. From there it can angle into the back wall or straight out parallel to the back wall or almost any angle in between.

What it does after hitting the second side wall depends on how hard, how high and how close to the seam it hit the front wall.

You probably won't be in position to perfectly execute this shot, either, but you do want to make sure that it is high enough on the front wall so that it crosses center court (diagram A) over your opponent's head.

Cutting the shot off before it hits the second wall is his best defense. The fact that it is going to bounce around all over the place before coming in for a landing means that you'll have time to regain your balance (which he doesn't want to see happen).

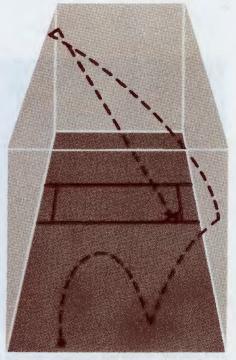


Diagram A: The Z ball contacts three walls on they fly and crosses center court so high in the air that it is beyond the reach of your opponent.

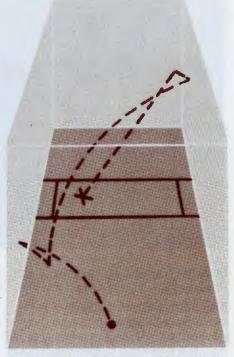


Diagram B: You don't want to let your Z ball bounce on the floor before contacting the third wall as does the Z serve above because your opponent will be able to step up and cut it off.

A classic Z ball situation. Nathan Martin is running hard for a cross court pass I've hit to the left side wall. If he gets his racquet on the ball, he will be off balance and unable to set up properly for an offensive shot even though he is well within range for one. In addition I have him in full view and should he dig the shot out, I will be in a good position to cover a kill or pass attempt while he will be out of position for my return. Nathan's best alternative is a Z ball which will keep me from hitting an offensive return and give Nathan a chance to regain position. Incidentally Nathan dug this one out.



Then, too, he might just run himself out of position trying to figure out which wall to hit it off of. Even if he does get a racquet on it, the ball will be on a downward angle and almost coming at him from the side instead of straight in from the front wall. It can easily be mis-hit by an opponent who isn't used to fielding wiffle balls.

Remember what they say about too much of a good thing, though, and don't expect to be able to use the Z ball on him all match. I seldom use the shot before the second garne of a match. By then both my opponent and I are into our respective game plans and he probably thinks he knows what I'm going to do in most situations.

In the situation I mentioned before, for example, he might logically expect me to try to pinch the ball as I often

do when I'm up front and my opponent is behind me. It's always nice to have a rabbit or two under your hat when your opponent starts anticipating you.

The Z ball not only gets me out of trouble, but it also plants a seed of self doubt in my opponent's mind. It is also a great way to change the pace on a player who is in the groove, particularly the hard driving offensive style player.

Oddly enough one of the best practitioners of this little-used shot is my Ektelon tearnmate Jerry Hilecher, who also happens to be one of the most offensive-oriented players in the game.

It makes good sense when you think about it, though, because while Jerry is a kill shot artist, he also is a good retriever and frequently finds himself in the situation where a Z ball comes in handy. I've learned to expect it from him and you can generally expect to see these kinds of skin-of-the-teeth bloopers from good retrievers in the amateur ranks, too. Look for them.

In addition to the usual problems arising out of poor execution, the principal danger in hitting a Z ball is that you will hit it so low or so soft that it will bounce on the floor like a Z serve before hitting the second side wall.(Diagram B)

A Z ball is not a Z serve. Remember that you want to keep it high going through the middle of the court so that it can't be cut off. In this case hitting three walls before the floor bounce is okay. If it hits the back wall before the floor, though, you're risking having it come back into middle court, so try to avoid that.

Other than that use it sparingly but as often as you can get away with it. •

## Just the Two of Us

## **Getting the Most out of Semi-Private Lessons**

### by Jean Sauser

Semi-private lessons have an advantage for some players, especially those who have court experience and want to save a little money over private lessons. Players who want to know why they lose to the same person every time should take a semi-private lesson with that nemesis or another player of near equal ability. The instructor can then observe both players in their natural game situation and give strategy tips that really help.

By starting with a game to 11 points the instructor can observe both players from outside the court and jot notes on stroke and strategy pointers. Some instructors even use charts.

There are several charts I use here at Milwaukie Racquetball Club to map out areas for improvement in students' games. The first chart is simply an instructor guideline for the lesson plan format. It is called a Player Improvement Chart. I use this chart the first time two players take a semi-private lesson from me. While watching both players on the court I write my observations on the grip, stroke, serves, service return, shot selection and other errors. When I complete the chart, it gives me a good idea of what the lesson will consist of. (example one).

I circle the common errors shared by the two players if there are any (and there usually are). The lesson begins with those errors — we go to work on correcting them first. At the bottom of the chart I write my plan for both players, always including a drill or drills for them to practice after the lesson that will continue their game improvement.

The Player Improvement Chart enables both players to see clearly what may be standing in the way of their overall game improvement. It helps the instructor remember in better detail what both players did during the game.

**Example One** 

#### **Player Improvement Chart**

Have the players play a game to 11 points while you observe. Jot down notes about their games that will help you outline the content of a semi-private lesson that will improve their games.

Game Area	Player One: Sue Smith	Player Two: Sally Jones			
Grip	Wrong backhand grip	Wrong forehand grip			
Stroke	Doesn't get the racquet back on the backhand side, steps too much toward the front wall on the backhand side	Doesn't drive the elbow through when executing the forehand  Too many drive serve attempts, could add more Z serves			
Serve Selection and Execution	Too many drive serve attempts, could learn more Z serves				
Serve Return Selection and Execution	Too defensive on the backhand side Forehand serve return is superb	Too offensive on both sides of the court			
Shot Selection and Execution	Needs to pinch better, pinch shot is too high	Needs to pinch better, Pass shots come off the back wa			
Other Errors	Looks to the front wall too early during the volley	Looks to the front wall too early during the volley			

Comments and suggested drills: Change grips, practice drop and hit back to back forehand and backhand with proper form. Practice Z serves. Review pinch shots, off the front wall and off the back wall drills for pinch shots. Discuss proper anticipation.

For students who are more advanced in terms of skill, or who have already used the Player Improvement chart, I use a second chart. It's called the Strategy Improvement Chart.

This chart functions somewhat like a score card. The instructor again observes the two players in a game and marks points in the box designating how the point was made. This chart enables the instructor to perform an accurate strategy analysis of both players. By tallying up how each player made points the

instructor can see what shots are missing from the other player's repertoire. From there it is easy to provide more shots for the players to practice or suggest strategy maneuvers that will add points to that player's game (example two).

The instructor should discuss the strategy improvement chart with both players and tell them what they will cover in the lesson. At this point the instructor should ask students what they want to learn.

#### Example Two

Instructor Notes: Sally defeated Sue due to her ability to cross court pass. Sue should be aware that her court positioning is leaving her susceptible to cross court passes and position herself better to react to these shots. Both games are lacking in ceiling balls, backhand kills, pinch shots and forehand down-the-line passes. Lesson content: backhand kills, forehand down-the-line shots, pinch shots. Drills for shots, also.

				Stra	itegy Im	proveme	nt Ch	art		777			
Names	Serv	е			Forehand				E	Backhand			Score
	Opponent Missed	Ace	D.T.L. Pass	C.C. Pass	Straight	Corner	Ceiling	D.T.L. Pass	C.C. Pass	Straight Kill	Comer	Ceiling	
Sue Smith	1	11			1			11			1	1	8
Sally Jones		111		111				ana i	111			11	11



Jennifer Harding, right, reviews a Player Improvement Chart with semi-private students at the Milwaukie Racquetball Club in Oregon.

Once the students have registered their requests and studied the chart with the instructor, the lesson can begin. Work on specific shots and skills that all three feel would be beneficial to game improvement should come first. It's this team spirit that develops during the lesson that makes it enjoyable for the instructor and the students.

If there is time toward the end of the lesson, the instructor should play each student a game to 11 points. The student who isn't playing should observe from outside the court. The outside observer can then look for the very skills that were covered in the lesson to see where they fit in the game and how the instructor uses them in the game situation.

Drills are also a very important part of the semi-private lesson. The instructor should demonstrate appropriate drills emphasizing drills that they both need.

At the end of the lesson each student should go home with his or her Player Improvement Chart. It's bound to inspire the practice that makes the next semi-private lesson worthwhile.

# Managing Time in a Racquetball Match

by Richard J. Carpenter, Jr.

Carpenter, who heads a Spokane, WA, consulting firm, from time to time writes National Racquetball articles applying successful business principles to our court sport.



In the business world, where time is money, executives use the time available to them to achieve the profit goals of the corporation. In amateur racquetball time may not mean money, but the efficient use of time available to the racquetball player will determine whether or not he or she achieves the objective of winning a match or a tournament.

But where the executive controls time by the hour, day and week, the racquetball player must manage time in increments of minutes, seconds and microseconds — a much tougher job. The racquetball player must manage four increments of time to reach the goals of winning:

(1) His or her three time outs per game

(2) The 10 seconds allowed between the end of one point and the serve for the next point

(3) The microseconds just before he or she hits the ball

(4) The microseconds after he or she hits the ball and before the opponent hits the ball

#### Time outs

Some players believe you should never take a time out when you are ahead; others believe you should never take a time out when you are serving; still others believe you should never take a time out if you feel you are in better condition than your opponent. In my opinion you should take a time out when it is to your tactical advantage to take a time out, regardless of the circumstances or the conditioning of the players—and that occurs in every game with players of near equivalent skill.

What does tactical mean? Using tactics, as opposed to strategy, means you are planning and managing your resources while engaged with the enemy (opponent). Your strategy is your "game plan" before you walk on the court; your tactics are your execution of that game plan. For example your strategy may be to win the match by wearing your opponent out because you think you are in better condition. Your tactics would be to make him or her run by hitting back court shots when he or she is in fore court and drop shots when he or she is in back court. How do you recognize "moments of tactical advantage" from which you call a time out?

Intuition plays a large part in the decision. And the right hunches come from being immersed in the game and sensing the "play" of the game. Are your opponent's shots working? Are you hitting the ball accurately? Is your timing on or off? What's the score? How many points have been scored in



a row? By whom? Is your backhand working? Is it the first, second or third game of the match? Who won the other game(s)? And the list could go on and on. But let me try to get explicit and set up some scenarios —offensive and defensive—in which a time out, if called, might or might not be to your tactical advantage.

Scenario I: It's the second game of a match in which you won the first game 21-16 and you are leading 19-15 and have just won a side out after your opponent ran five straight points. Is it to your tactical advantage to take a time out?

One thousand one . . . one thousand two.

Yes. Although fatigue does not seem to be a factor, momentum has swung to her side and her adrenalin is flowing after those five points. She needs the opportunity to cool down and think about the fact that she is two points from losing the match. An immediate serve on your part could very easily result in an immediate side out and another string of points. The time out also lets you forget about those five points and concentrate on the fact that you need only two more points to close out the match. During the time out you can wipe down and concentrate on: Which serve has been your most successful against this opponent? When she returns it, where has it been going? And so on.

Scenario II: It's the first game of a match and you have scored four quick points after winning a side out on his serve. The score is now 15-10 in your favor. You've seen this guy play before and realize he is not playing up to his usual game. Is it to your tactical advantage to take a time out?

No. Let the sleeping dog lie and don't wake him up by hitting him with the ball. Momentum has sided with you for the moment and you should run the string as long as you can. It is to his advantage to take a time out. Don't give him the time to get himself together, but keep him off balance by continuing the tempo of the game with your serving.

Scenario III: You are in an 11 point tiebreaker and the score is 9-9 and he is serving after just scoring a point. The first two games were close and could have gone either way. You both are in good condition, not unusually fatigued, and you're both playing well. Is it to your tactical advatage to take a time out?

Yes. You are in a defensive situation both tactically and strategically. You need to take a moment to see where you are, wipe down, compose your concentration, set your determination, check your equipment and plan to win by getting the serve back.

There are an infinite number of scenarios you will find yourself involved in as you play in racquetball matches.

The simple fact that you start to consider your time outs as part of your strategy is a step forward and will lead you to consider managing the other time aspects of your game, such as the 10 seconds allowed before serving.

#### Ten Seconds before Serves

There are many racquetball players who don't realize that 10 seconds are allowed between the end of one point and the serve for the next point. Having set the record straight on that let's consider how to effectively manage that time to achieve your objective of winning games. First the time is available to you in both the offensive servicing position and the defensive receiving position. That means you cannot serve until the receiver (within that 10 second limit) is ready to accept your serve. You will see a player turn his back to the server-after the referee calls the score to insure not being rushed into receiving a serve before being ready. This greatly upsets a server who like to win a point, grab the ball and quickly serve before the opponent can get set, but it is smart racquetball because the receiver controls the tempo of the game. And that is the objective you should have in mind in managing those 10 seconds.

It may even be axiomatic to say that the one who controls the tempo of the game will win the game. In most sports it is the offensive player or team usually in control of the tempo, but in racquetball control can come from both positions. In football the offensive team always knows when



the ball will be "snapped" and therefore always has a split second advantage; but in racquetball the player who is managing the time has that advantage whether offensive or defensive.

What can you do in the 10 seconds allowed from the time the referee calls the score until the ball is served into play? Is 10 seconds long enough to do anything? Part of your practice routine should be to learn to judge the length of time that 10 seconds represents. Get in the habit of counting in your mind "One thousand one," "One thousand two," "One thousand three," etc., until you can intuitively "feel" how long 10 seconds is. If you can't, continue counting either while serving or while in the defensive receiving position. You will soon discover that 10 seconds is a long time relative to the rest of the action in a racquetball game. A racquetball hit 80 m.p.h. travels the length of the court in three-tenths of a second, or that same ball will travel-in 10 seconds-the length of 36 racquetball courts! So a lot can happen in 10 seconds.



#### A Deep Breath

The most obvious use of your 10 seconds is to rest and gather your thoughts. In pistol shooting good breath control is one of the tools of the champion, who knows that proper breathing steadies the aim and places the bullet into the bull's eye. Proper breathing is also a tool of the champion racquetball player. A deep breath during that 10 seconds settles your body, introduces additional oxygen into your system and generally gets you mentally ready to start the next point. The 10 seconds is enough time to ask yourself: "What's the score?" "If I'm serving, what serve has been working?" "If I'm receiving, am I in proper position?" "What serve is he likely to hit next?"

#### **Equipment Check**

Other things you can do during the 10 seconds are wiping your hand dry, resetting your grip, checking your equipment and checking your opponent. Check your opponent for telltale gestures that tip off what he or she is planning to do. One of my regular partners has noticed that whenever I plan to hit an overhead smash into the corner, I raise my head ever so slightly.

#### Microseconds before You Hit the Ball

These quantities of time are difficult to define. The length of time is so short as to be hardly measurable but is still important to successful racquetball play. Similar amounts of time (microseconds, nanoseconds) are equally crucial to other sports and may help relate better to the management of that time in racquetball.

In basketball when a player goes up for a jump shot, the player does not release the ball on the way up or on the way down, but during the microsecond of time when the body "stops" to reverse direction. At that moment of time the body, head, legs and arms become balanced and handeye coordination is at its peak, and from this comes the term "timing" we often hear in sports. In golf during the slow motion replays, we see the golfer "stop" at the top of the swing at the time of change from the back swing to complete the full swing through the ball.

To release the ball, the club or the racquet any time before or after that hesitation decreases the probability of making the basket, hitting the ball on the "sweet spot" of the club, or hitting the front wall where you intended. This result is caused by "being off in your timing."

In racquetball that "moment of timing" comes just before you hit the ball, after you have hustled into



position. In fact the microsecond of time we are concerned about is the last ingredient of positioning. It is not enough to run to where the ball is; it is not enough to set your feet; it is not enough to cock your wrists; it is not enough to follow the ball with your eyes in complete concentration because having done all of that, you must still "hesitate" that split second for everything — your head, legs, feet, arms, eyes — to get into balanced position before you "pull the trigger" by uncocking your wrist and hitting the ball.

A careful observer of racquetball players will make the following conclusion concerning the management of this microsecond of time in racquetball: the more accomplished the player, the better the management of these microseconds. It seems to be an irony of racquetball, but the management of this time seems to be easier to learn than it is to teach. A player with the physical skills to play racquetball seems to inherently learn to "hesitate that split second" as the level of proficiency increases up to a plateau. Once reaching that plateau the player will increase skill only through instruction, training and experience as he or she learns to overcome concentration lapses that cause failure in use of available microseconds.





Microseconds before Your Opponent Hits the Ball

The final block of time available in racquetball consists of microseconds between the time you hit the ball and your opponent returns it. The length of time available is a function of the shot that you hit. If you hit a ceiling shot, you are going to have more time than if you hit a low drive to his backhand. The first shot may give you as long as two seconds, the second maybe a tenth of a second. Your objective in managing this time should be to study your opponent and get into position for your next shot.

By studying your opponent moving into position and preparing to strike the ball you should be able to determine what shots he or she prefers to hit from certain positions, whether or not that shot is available at that moment and from body language pick up any clues that warn of his or her intentions. I mentioned earlier the habit of raising my head just slightly when I intended to hit an overhead smash into the corners. Another player will cock her wrist differently when she intends to go across court. Yet another will shift his weight backward when he goes to the ceiling. These are the type habits you are trying to detect during this period of time.

Concentration lapses mean wasted microseconds.

Finally you should try to develop the habit of asking the following question in helping you manage the time available to you while waiting for your opponent to hit the ball: "From where he is where can the ball go?" or "Where can it not go?" For example if you have hit a ceiling ball deep to the left corner near the wall, "Where can the ball go?" The greatest probability is another ceiling shot or, if he is in real trouble, maybe a "flick" shot that hits the center front wall, "Where can the ball not go?" It is highly improbable that he will hit a low drive kill shot, so you position yourself in the front court to either volley the ceiling shot or in the back court to return another ceiling shot. The choice is yours.

Your primary objective in managing this time is to enable you to get into better return position for your next shot. If it is the shot that wins the game, you have managed your time to achieve your ultimate goals in racquetball.



# **Teaching Kids Racquetball**

A Dozen Do's and Don'ts to Guide You by Jim Winterton

Jim Winterton is the director of instructional programming at the Winton Racquetball Club in Rochester, NY in which 100 boys and girls five-to-17-years-old are enrolled. He has coached several fine young junior racquetballers including Mike Levine, one of the east's finest players.



Working with youngsters as a racquetball instructor and coach for the past four years I have seen some problems develop on the juniors scene.

At a Juniors tournament I once overheard a parent say before the semi finals "I want my son to wintomorrow more than he does." Needless to say this parent was correct, and the son did lose the next day. This statement helps to underline a flaw in some juniors instruction. The kid must want to win to achieve. As an instructor, parent, or influential adult, you cannot will a child to win.

Another problem I see in racquetball, as well as in all sports, is a misunderstanding of competition. In our winoriented society if you win, you're good and somehow that gets translated nto "if you lose, you're bad". Of course at every level or tournament play this problem exists, but as adults we can deal with this dilemma much more easily than children can.

Finally and perhaps as a result of the first two problems I see kids who are not having fun at tournaments and even in practice. I recently had a boy come into my program from another club. The pro from the other club told me the boy could never win because the kid always choked. First of all for an instructor to make that decision about a small child is ridiculous! I could dig up articles written in the early 70's that said the same thing about Marty Hogan because he skipped too many. The new boy in my program was simply not having fun.

- 1. Make children understand that you like them for being themselves. They should not have to win a match for your love or attention.
- 2. Motivate your students. This is done by enthusiasm and a willingness to discuss racquetball in as much depth as possible.
- 3. Set a good example. There are several coaches who as players never win because they are out of shape. It is hard for those people to demand that their students condition themselves. Kids need positive examples set by adults around them.
- 4. Let the kids have fun. If practice is fun, tournaments will be also. The hard work involved in tournament racquetball necessitates a sense of humor to break the monotony of training.
- 5. Let the kids learn from their mistakes. I see coaches raising their voices unnecessarily. This breaks anyone's concentration and leads to more errors. Only point out how to correct errors and do not dwell on the mistakes.
- 6. Create a racquetball environment for the kids. If you have enthusiasm for the sport, so will the kids. If you are trying to learn more about racquetball, so will the children. Surround them with magazine articles, have rap sessions with good players and, when possible, show movies or video tapes.



#### Don't:

- 1. Put unnecessary pressure on a kid. For example I have heard parents say to their child "Well the pressure is on you tommorrow." A comment like this puts the kid at a disadvantage, especially if he or she is playing someone who has been told to "go out and have a good time!"
- 2. Criticize just to criticize. I have heard coaches say negative things like "you always choke" or "you're so slow." This should be done positively; for example: "Joan you seem vervous out there. You're such a good player you should relax more." or "John you looked slow out there today. I have a conditioning program that will help you with your speed for next tournament."
- 3. Overcoach, I see too much of this in tournaments. We all have seen him. The wise old coach upstairs telling the kid what to do every point. This type of help tends to confuse most kids. The kids are there to play a match. When a coach gets to point where it is his or her match, and not the child's, the results may be immediately rewarding but down the road the self-directed student will be way ahead of the overcoached kid.
- 4. Ignore your beginners for kids who are doing so well. In my years of football coaching I remember kids I wished I could cut in August who were gang busters by the end of October. The human spirit is something you cannot judge. Many times that spirit takes a kid a lot further than natural
- 5. Look at parents as your enemies. They are your allies. Listen to them, as sometimes they have constructive criticism that can help. They know their children better than you and without their help and support you cannot make progress with the kids.
- 6. Coach kids who won't listen to you. If you have followed all of these do's and don'ts and a student or parents are dissatisfied with your approach you should discuss it openly and honestly. If agreement cannot be reached, then it would be better for the parents to move to another pro. One dissenter can ruin a program no matter how well anyone's intentions are.

Once he did start having fun everything else fell into place. He is now doing very well and racquetball is something he enjoys.

For the benefit of coaches new to Juniors racquetball I have developed For a story on another Mike Levine supporter-his father, Mort-turn to page 19.

Mike Levine, left, and Peter Bluestone. pose with their teacher, who shares his winning teaching philosphy with National Racquetball readers.



six do's and don'ts. While aimed at coaches these rules would help any adult working with children in racquetball.

If these do's and don'ts are followed. junior racquetballers everywhere could enjoy the game more. If you look closely at successful young pros today, most of them had a good coach, parent or adult behind their career. By the same token I shudder to think how many potentially great players have been turned off to racquetball by overly zealous adults. The sport of racquetball has been good to many adults. Let's let it work for the kids, too. •

## What's the Call?

by Dan Bertolucci



This month's "What's the Call?" will be directed to Mark Wilson of Soquel, CA, who asks "Specifically what is the call when Player A drives a shot into the corner to Player B. Player A then takes a position only to allow a downthe-wall kill, down-the-wall pass, corner pinch, or ceiling return. Player B returns with a cross court kill or pass attempt which hits Player A.

Player A repeatedly gets hit by Player B throughout the game. Player A feels by allowing Player B an open lane for down-the-wall and pinch shots, he has given Player B a clear and unobstructed view of the front court, whereas Player B feels an unobstructed view of the front wall would also allow Player B the cross court shot. What's the call?"

This situation occurs all the time in all levels of play. Unfortunately a clearcut ruling cannot always be made because such a call, as it pertains to this obvious "dead ball" situation, involves the additional judgment of the referee as to whether or not, in the above case, Player A intentionally positioned himself in such a way as to get hit, thereby avoiding the possibility of losing the rally or the serve. In other words a player might take his chances on getting hit, and hope the ref will simply replay the point.

Usually getting hit repeatedly is enough to cause a player to move, and generally the positioning of the defensive player tends to loosen up enough so that he is then able to execute the desired cross court pass or kill attempt. I know the "call" may not be what you want to hear, that is, automatically avoidable; but this type of situation really relies on the competent judgment of the referee.

Dan Bertolucci is director of the NRC, governing body for professional racquetball, and is a longtime racquetball referee. Send him your questions about rules clo National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie 60076.



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# Frontier Racquetball

**Prescott Plays in Old West Hotel** 

by Janet Shepard

Demolish or renovate? is a choice developers face when they want to put racquetball facilities in locations where land is scarce. Last November *National Racquetball* described a New Jersey club built on the site of a demolished power plant. This month — and in future issues — the Court Club section features racquetball centers that chose the renovation route.



The Prescott Hotel before racquetball

Pride in the past runs high in Prescott, AZ, a town of 19,000, halfway between Phoenix and Flagstaff (and a stone's throw away from hamlets with names like Bumble Bee, Horse Thief, Nowhere and Skull Valley).

Everyone is wrapped up in Prescott's westem heritage, including Paul Hicks, a dentist who plays racquetball and runs marathons. Hicks decided to introduce Prescott to racquetball by converting the 80-year-old Prescott Hotel, in the historic "whiskey row" section, into the Territorial Courthouse.



Renovators paid strict attention to details like the carving in the front door, the entrance tiles and the "tooths" at the top right of this photo. "Tooths," remnants from Victorian times, create shadow and shape on a flat building.

Exercise Physiologist Kathryn Nickerson rings up a sale at the counter that was once a display case in a Prescott drug store.



Architect Don Woods, of Sedona, AZ, directed engineers to reinforce the building with steel. "If the old walls were to crumble at our feet," one engineer assures, "The complex would stand straight and proud and the courts would be as solid as ever." Local workmen carefully restored the interior of the Territorial Courthouse, taking down tin panels that were in the ceiling of the old hotel, copper coating them and putting each one back in a frame of oak.

Workmen also removed, refinished and reinstalled original cabinets and the bannister of the main stairway that once led to hotel rooms and now takes members to courts and the exercise room. In some cases Kevin Griefe, the contractor, made new oak moldings, valances, comices and trims.



Tin ceiling panels from the Prescott Hotel decorate the Territorial Courthouse.



Nowhere but in Prescott can you play racquetball and work out in settings like these.



"Kevin made our fantasies into realities — nothing is standard," says Interior Designer Chuck Smith, referring to Griefe's use of original marble sinks, brass doorknobs, stained glass from old Prescott houses and eight-sided tiles from the building's facade that now trim the shower stalls.

Smith, owner of The Designery of Prescott, researched the period at the local Sharlot Hall Museum and then fumished the Territorial Courthouse with setees, carved wood tables, Victorian lamps, Oriental rugs and patterned wallpaper rich in blues, maroons and ivories. The furniture looks very much like it did when guests checked into the Prescott Hotel in the early 1900s.

The designer, whose own 19th Century house is on the National Registry, says Paul Hicks was willing to spend twice as much or more on the Territorial Courthouse restoration and period funishings than it would have cost him to use the wall graphics, module seating and chrome found in most clubs around the country.

#### Tax Breaks for Saving History

A developer considering restoration of an old building should check with his or her State Historic Preservation Officer to determine if the rehabilitation project qualifies as a "certified historic structure" under the Tax Reform Act of 1976, which allows substantial write-off benefits. For information on the certification process and guidelines for applying the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation write to the Tax Reform Act, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240. Or contact National Racquetball, which has a list of state historic preservation officers.



The only thing missing is the old potbelly stove. Territorial Courthouse has a solar heating system with eriough collectors on the roof to supply 80 percent of the club's energy demands.

## **Court Shorts**

If you see the movie, Penitentiary, the sleeper that cost less than a million and is pulling dollars at the box office, you'll see scenes from two prisons you read about in National Racquetball. One is the Lincoln Heights jail in Los Angeles, where racquetball courts were the subject of a November, 1979 story. and the other is the Terminal Island federal penitentiary in San Pedro, CA, the place from which a racquetball playing prisoner wrote a gripping narrative that ran in NR's December, 1978 issue . . . "Winning Racquetball," a series of six 30 minute instructional tapes starring Karin Walton and Rich



Film stars Karin Walton, Rich Wagner

video cassettes for \$250 from KOCE-TV Foundation, Box 2476, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 . . . The Moist Heat Band, from the Northern Electric Company, Division of Sunbeam Corporation, sooths strained muscles by putting the heat where it hurts ... Corbin-Gentry, Inc. of Somersville, CT, has added leg extension and row machines to their line of physical fitness products . . . Ali Swofford, featured in last November's National Racquetball story on her accomplishments as a racquetball player and founder of Ladies First women's athletic clothing manufacturer, was one of nine national

finalists in Stayfree's annual Service to Women's Sports Award. The winner was Ed Temple, head women's track coach at Tennessee State University . . . Jennifer Wayt, co-owner of Chalet Sports Core in Willow Springs, IL, has been

Jennifer Wayt



elected to the Board of Directors of the National Court Club Association . . . The \$342,000,000 Whistler resort Complex in Vancouver, BC, will include racquetball courts .... The Quad-Kick Pulley is Universal Gym Equipment's newest fitness unit . . . Sporting goods stores are carrying Tuli's, a new latex rubber heel cushion from Wolverine World Wide . . . Racquettes of Hialeah, FL. has a summer line of racquetball clothes made of cotton and



Racquette's basic tank top and short polyester knit, and Ektelon has brought out a new doubleknit short.

## Jim Earl and Vicki Clark:

## In the Business of Here and Now

Vicki Clark and Jim Earl are mixed doubles racquetball players who frequently win tournaments. They are also professionals in the field of human potential movement trainings.

Jim Earl is the Seattle, WA, area director for Lifespring, Incorporated; Vicki Clark serves as a trainer and advanced training supervisor for the not-for-profit division of the San Rafael, CA, based corporation that runs training sessions for individuals, families and business people who are seeking personal growth.

The "trainings" help people focus on how they play the inner game of their lives. Clark and Earl apply what they teach others about the inner game of their lives to their own game of racquetball.

"What's important for me," says Earl, "is the idea of be-here-now. I'm playing against myself if my mind is anywhere but on the court.

"When I find myself drifting concerned about the spectators, my job or family—I consciously take a moment and set aside those other concerns and come back to the present, to the task at hand. I do my best to play each shot individually with all my attention on it."

Earl, 37, switched to racquetball from handball. Clark, 31—who earned high school letters in field hockey, basketball, tennis and softball—learned racquetball in 1974 from her mother, Winona Henderson. Shortly after they met, the business friends began playing racquetball on a regular basis.

"What used to happen for me," says Clark, "was that I'd get upset or let my emotions get in my way in a tournament. I'd get to the point where I couldn't play at all.

"Lately I've been learning to put all that aside and really play against the ball."

Another technique that Clark uses while on the court involves directed imagination. She mentally pictures herself correctly taking different strokes and—as a result—her game improves.





Seattle's Vicki Clark and Jim Earl apply their "Life Works" formula to their racquetball game.



"I picture myself on the court doing things that I want, I used to focus on what was wrong with my game and how to improve it. Now I just picture myself doing things correctly. I do it while I play and also in the car on the way to work. The principle is expanding what I do well, rather than dwelling on mistakes."

Vicki Clark met Jim Earl when she took part in a training session he was directing. They started playing in tournaments, often cheered on by their spouses-Kaye Earl and Gary Clark, who also enjoy the game. The tournament partners play all out against the ball on each shot—but feel like winners regardless of the score.

"I like to keep shooting, taking risks and always win. When the score goes the other way, I'm not a loser, I just ran short of time," says Earl, with a grin.

Another aspect of their mental game is accountability.

"If I'm playing badly," Earl says, "I don't blame the referee or the other

Generally when I'm not playing well, I didn't really want to be on the court anyway. My mind was somewhere else."

Has the racquetball had any impact on their profession, their careers as human potential training facilitators?

"Yes," says Earl, "it gives me plenty of good stories to illustrate the points I'm making in trainings about being in the present, being accountable and playing what we call win-win games.

"It also helps me get out any anxieties or frustrations—sometimes I just hit the ball for release," says Clark. "And I receive energy from my play. My sports give me more energy to share with others.

"Also the teamwork that we create on the court carries over into our work. We work together more as a team," says Earl, who spent his youth in various team sports, ultimately playing semi-professional football with the Joliet (IL) Explorers.

For the Clark-Earl team racquetball is more than a pastime. Racquetball gives them a chance to practice their "inner" games. 

•

—Fred Niederman



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## "All-American" Glove Plan

"Player and club response has been fantastic" says John Fabry, president of Saranac Glove, Green Bay, WI, of the discount plan for USRA

Since February over 40,000 Saranac Glove discount coupons have been distributed to over 200 USRA sanctioned events around the country.

The coupon, given to each participant at USRA sanctioned events, offers each player a savings towards the purchase of a Saranac R-200 or R-600 glove, and the host site receives the same discount when placing a wholesale order to Saranac at time of redemption.

"Many clubs have begun stocking the 'All-American' series as a result of this program" says Fabry. "The acceptance of the glove by the players has been overwhelming.

If you're planning a tournament, give your state chairman or USRA headquarters a call. A new supply of coupons are on hand and orders can be filled immediately.

#### **USRA** Sanctioning

Exactly what does it mean when the USRA sanctions a tournament?

I receive so many questions on this topic that I've decided to devote column space to the sanctioning issue. Let me know if you have specific questions about sanctioning, and I'll answer them in this space in coming months.

- Bob Keenan

Bob Keenan, USRA director, coordinates amateur competition around the country. working hand in hand with the USRA state chairmen listed on this page.



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## Amateurs on the Pro-Am Tour

## Beverly, MA Seamco Classic April 9-13

#### Women's Open

Quarters: Bonnie Stoll d. Deborah Beck 21-10, 21-1; Norma Taylor d. Delia O'Dwyer 21-2, 21-10; Janet Simon d. Judy Bryant 16-21, 21-4, 11-8; Barbara Olson d. Kathie Jones, forfeit

Semis: Stoll d. Taylor 21-13, 21-3; Simon d. Olsen 21-16, 21-9

Finals: Stoll d. Simon 21-13, 21-18

#### Women's Novice

Quarters: Betsy Piper d. Dolly Mitchell 15-21, 21-14, 11-10; Kathy Duggan d. Cathy McEnare 21-7, 21-1; Carol Doherty d. Diane Bossie 21-16, 18-21, 11-4; Tracy Daly d. Myrian Maguire 21-9, 21-16

Semis: Duggan d. Piper 21-1, 21-7; Daly d. Doherty 16-21, 21-6, 11-10

Finals: Daly d. Duggan 21-8, 7-21, 11-9

#### Men's Open

Quarters: Ron Mirek d. Phil Belanger 19-21, 21-13, 11-1; George Vierra d. Mike McDonough 21-13, 16-21, 11-7; Gene Fitzpatrick d. Rob McKinney 21-11, 21-15; Beaver Wickham d. Mike Romano 21-7, 21-13 Semis: Vierra d. Ron Mirek 21-16, 21-7; Wickham d. Fitzpatrick 21-10, 21-15

Finals: Vierra d. Wickham 15-21, 21-18, 11-6

#### Men's F

Quarters: Ed Russo d. Pierre Gendron 21-17, 21-11; Dave Arnold d. Luke Adolph 21-2, 21-5; Marc Garnder d. Roy Simon 21-11, 21-9; Mike Lodge d. David Simonette 21-15, 19-21, 11-4

Semis: Arnold d. Russo 21-7, 21-16; Lodge d. Gardner 21-15, 17-21, 11-1

Finals: Arnold d. Lodge 21-17, 11-21, 11-7

#### Men's (

Quarters: Rich Long d, Bob lanuzzi 21-17, 12-21, 11-6; John Kerrivan d, Mike DeVincenzo 21-11, 21-9; Greg Holtman d, Marc Dupont 16-21, 21-10, 11-1; Tim Porter d. Dick Queeney 21-19, 21-9

Semis: Kerrivan d. Long 13-21, 21-16, 11-3; Holtman d. Porter 21-5, 21-8

Finals: Holtman d. Kerrivan 21-15, 21-15

#### Men's Novice

Quarters: David Rose d. George Delaney, withdraw due to injury; Bob Davis d. Chas McKenna 21-14, 21-15; Bill Sakamoto d. George Allard; John Glynn d. Dave Scali 21-13, 9-21, 11-0

Semis: Davis d. Rose 21-9, 21-8; Sakamoto d. Glynn 21-13, 21-14

Finals: Davis d. Sakamoto 21-13, 7-21, 11-3

#### Men's Seniors

Quarters: Rene Depot d. Gilbert Townsend 15-21, 21-6, 11-2; Dave Cahill d. Tom Flannery 21-10, 21-3; Jimbo Daly d. Bob Hollander 21-16, 21-3; Peter Prucha d. Warren Pierce 21-12, 21-18

Semis: Cahill d. Depot 21-15, 21-20; Daly d. Prucha 21-10, 21-15

Finals: Daly d. Cahill 21-13, 21-7

## Atlanta, GA Catalina Classic East April 30 - May 3

#### Men's Open

Quarters: Mike Ray d. John Parks 21-7, 21-14; Gregg Peck d. Dave Negrette 21-13, 21-3; John Klearman d. Jack Newman 21-10, 21-12; Dennis McDowell d. George Vierra 19-21; 21-3, 11-5

Semis: Peck d. Ray 21-12, 21-11; McDowell d. Klearman 21-13, 21-15

Finals: McDowell d. Peck 21-15, 21-15

Gregg Peck, left, lost to Dennis McDowell in the Men's Open in Atlanta. Open winners won trips to the Nationals and TVs, runnersup won stereos.



#### Men's A

Quarters: Allen Dunn d. Jerry Wickliffe 16-21, 21-14, 11-7; Bobby Agnew d. Tom Kimbrough 19-21, 21-11, 11-9; Woody Burkhalter d. Joe Vichery, forfeit; Tim Tracy d. Dave Reep 21-19, 21-4

Semis: Dunn d. Allen 21-5, 21-19; Tracy d. Burkhalter 21-17, 21-5, 11-7

Finals: Dunn d. Tracy 21-3, 21-11

#### Men's B

Quarters: Bruce Hawk d. Ed Feinberg 15-21, 21-11, 11-7; Will Hamilton d. Pat Eckenrod 21-19, 21-15; Bill Simpson d. Tim Mazzeti 15-21, 21-15, 11-4, Ricky Dixon d. Cecil Blankenship

Semis: Hawk d. Hamilton 13-21, 21-16, 11-5; Simpson d. Dixon 21-17, 13-21, 11-8

Finals: Simpson d. Hawk 21-9, 21-17

#### Men's Novice

Quarters: Earl Berman d. John Price 21-18, 21-8; Don Fox d. Pat Wilburn 20-21, 21-19, 11-10; Brian Hussey d. John Colleen 21-14, 21-15, Mackay Asberg d. Rolfe Grover 17-21, 21-17, 11-9

Semis: Berman d. Fox 21-13, 21-9; Asburg d. Hussey 21-18, 21-4

Finals: Asburg d. Berman 21-20, 3-21, 11-4

#### Men's C

Quarters: Ed Kanner d. Charles Wolford 11-21, 21-17, 11-6; David Payne d. David Mende 21-11, 21-15; Gary Sutton d. Harry Karr 21-12, 9-21, 11-10; Nick Bartell d. Ric Almas 20-21, 21-12, 11-7

Semis: Payne d. Kanner 21-14, 21-5; Sutton d. Bartell 9-21, 21-6, 11-10

Finals: Sutton d. Payne 21-16, 19-21, 11-10

#### Men's Seniors

Quarters: Jamie Carr d. Jack Sussman 21-8, 21-10; Jim Hilliard d. Bob Keenan 9-21, 21-20, 11-6; Ron Scallion d. Ron Pang 21-13, 21-11; Ron Clark d. Marshall Chamberlain 21-16, 10-21, 11-10

Semis: Carr d. Sussman 21-8, 21-10; Hilliard d. Keenan 9-21, 21-20, 11-6

Semis: Carr d. Hilliard 21-15, 21-7; Chamberlain d. Scallion 21-16, 21-12

Finals: Carr d. Chamberlain

#### Men's Veteran Open

Quarters: Wayne Vincent d. Jeff Kaseman 21-11, 21-20; Bob Siegel d. Dave Lawrence 18-21, 21-16, 11-3; Doug Wurster d. Joe Pappaterra 21-16, 11-21, 11-10; Jay Schwartz d. Dan Bertolucci 21-20, 21-7

Semis: Siegel d. Vincent 21-13, 14-21, 11-8; Schwartz d.\* Wurster 21-12, 21-16

Finals: Schwartz d. Siegel 21-11, 21-14

#### Men's Masters

Quarters: Buck Shamburger d. Ted Friedricks 21-7, 21-14; Thad Konicki d. Bill Billingsley 21-14, 21-19; Toerge Litsky d. Frank Phillipson 21-9, 21-17; Jim Bradford d. Tony Barbaris 21-20, 21-16

Semis: Shamburger d. Konicki 21-13, 21-4; Litskey d. Bradford 21-9, 21-17

Finals: Shamburger d. Litskey 21-6, 21-9

#### Women's Open

Quarters: Dee Lewis d. Babette Burkett 21-13, 21-11; Colleen Shields d. Kathle Jones 21-20, 21-9; Debbie Drury d. Nancy Kronenfeld 21-12, 21-13; Caryn McKinney d. Tina Heath 21-14, 21-20

Semis: Lewis d. Shields 21-15, 21-21; McKinney d. Drury 21-20, 21-15

Finals: McKinney d. Lewis 21-16, 13-21, 11-2

Dee Lewis, left, bowed to Caryn McKinney in the Women's Open.



#### /omen's A

Quarters: Beth Crawley d. Anne Barnebors 21-17, 21-17; Nancy McClesky d. Kathi Cambre 21-19, 21-7; Beth English d. Toni Clark 21-8, 21-13; Rita Callahan d. Maren Conlin 21-13, 21-18

Semis: Crawley d. McCleskey 15-21, 21-13, 11-4; English d. Callahan 21-13, 21-18

Finals: English d. Crawley 21-19, 21-15

#### Women's

Quarters: Sharon Young d. Diane Chambers, forfeit; Joan Walters d. Shelly Gaynes 21-2, 21-8; Shelly Zeiden d. Cathle Touhy 21-13, 21-2; Dee Wallace d. Sheri Adkins 21-8, 21-8.

Semis: Walters d. Young 21-11, 21-6; Wallace d. Zeiden 21-6, 21-5

Finals: Walters d. Wallace 21-5, 21-11



Don Frinelann brion

## **Tournament Results**

Please send tournament results and clear black and white action photos to Bob Keenan, USRA, 4101 Dempster, Skokie, IL 60076. Type your results double spaced, including name of tournament, dates and place with scores listed in style you see on these pages. Use first and last names the first time you mention a player (in doubles matches, too) and last names only after that.

Allow two months or more for your tournament writeup to appear here.

## Wyoming

Jan. 18 - 20 were the dates of the N-Z shoe store sponsored tournament at the Campbell County Parks and Recreation Department in Gillette.

#### Results

#### Men's A

Quarters: Charlie Jorgensen d. Mike Hopkins 21-6, 21-11; Mike Olson d. Bill Ruck 21-9, 21-19; Larry Simonson d. Dick O'Gara, forfeit; Dan Sell d. Ron Clark 21-16, 21-20

Semis: Jorgensen d. Olson 21-9, 21-6; Sell d. Simonson 21-19, 21-14

Finals: Jorgensen d. Sell 21-18, 21-2 Cons: Olson d. Hopkins 17-21, 21-11, 11-10

Women's A (Round Robin) Karen Powers 4 wins, 0 losses; Anne Conolly 3 wins, 1 loss; Donna Wilson 2 wins, 2

#### Men's B

Quarters: Randy Dayhoff d. James Lococo 21-19, 15-21, 11-6; Mike Harker d. Pat Malott 21-16, 21-10; Gary Miller d. Rick Reding 21-2, 21-5; John Bouzis d. Howard Christman

Semis: Harker d. Dayhoff 21-8, 21-13; Bouzis d. Miller 21-9.

Finals: Bouzis d. Harker 21-20, 21-4 Cons: Les Desavedo d. James Lococo 21-14, 17-21, 11-8

Quarters: Mickey Spieles D. Mary Eagleson 21-9, 21-9; Vicki McCarty d. Candy Woodley 21-9, 21-11; Phyllis Miltech d. Paulette Jerpe 21-18, 21-19; Rita Antencio d. Noia Nelson 8-21, 21-6, 11-6

Semis: Spieles D. McCarty 21-15, 20-21, 11-7; Antencio d. Miltech 21-1, 21-17

Finals: Spieles d. Antencio 21-20, 21-19 Cons: Kathy Merklin d. Ida Rathjen 16-21, 21-18, 11-7

Quarters: Tom Sansonetti d. Bob Thomas 21-6, 21-13; Dave Clift d. Marty Crump 21-6, 21-8; Biff Hawkey d. Bill Holloway 21-14, 21-15; George Toto d. Bob Gulley 21-2,

Semis: Sansonetti d. Clift 21-10, 21-12; Toto d. Hawkey 19-21, 21-14, 11-6

Finals: Sansonetti d. Toto 21-17, 21-17 Cons: Ron Sandrock d. Roy Howard 21-15, 21-17

## South Carolina

Larry Gammons and Phil Chandler won the South Carolina Racquetball Association Doubles Tournament at the Charleston Racquet/Nautilus Center in Charleston Feb. 22-24.

The defending champions, the Gammons/ Chandler team, defeated Richard Quinn,

the South Carolina State Open Champion, and Charlie White 20-21, 21-20, 11-3.

In the Men's B Joe Hogan and Barry Sikes defeated the team of Kenny Ray and Sam Kouvaris 21-16, 21-4. In the Men's Seniors Rusty Hamilton and Howard Pickrel defeated Keith Marshall and George Von Kolnite 21-11, 21-13.

In the women's action Linda Strasburger and Elizabeth Head defeated Melissa Cameron and Margaret Burgin 21-9, 21-20.

### Delaware

The second annual Leukemia Racquetball Tournament took place March 7-9 at Branmar Racquetball Club near Wilmington.

#### Results

#### Men's Open

Quarters: Tom Ranker d. Jeff Foster 21-9, 21-4;Dave MacKelcan d. Willie Wang 21-12, 21-6; Scott Ryan d. Ira Miller 21-6, 21-13; Don Little d. Orval Foraker 21-6, 21-13

Semis: MacKelcan d. Ranker 14-21, 21-16, 11-9; Ryan d. Little 21-18, 21-13

Finals: MacKelcan d. Ryan 19-21, 21-12, 11-8

#### Men's Seniors

Quarters: Mike Kitchens d. Klaus Wagner 6-21, 21-4, 11-10; Dario Mas d. Joe Capozzoli 21-10, 21-9; Bob Reichert d. Bob Drouin 21-16, 19-21, 11-9; Charlie Sullivan d. Mike Hennessy 21-16, 21-8

Semis: Kitchens d. Mas 21-15, 3-21, 11-3; Sullivan d. Reichert 21-15, 21-9

Finals: Kitchen d. Sullivan 21-10, 21-7

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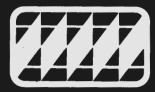
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#### Men's Masters

Quarters: Jimmy Flynn d. Jim Goodley 21-4, 21-11; Charlie Robertson d. Joseph Pruett 21-17, 21-16; Paul Billy d. Peter J. Farina 21-4, 21-4; Bill Stoebe d. John Christensen 21-8, 21-3

Semis: Flynn d. Robertson 21-7, 21-12; Billy d. Stoebe 21-13, 21-10

Finals: Flynn d. Billy 19-21, 21-17, 11-8

#### Man's B

Quarters: Mike Milewski d. Dennis Deimedio 21-17, 13-21, 11-5; Joe Billhimer d. Larry Picciani 21-13, 21-18; Dennis Hammond d. Harry McNair 13-21, 21-20, 11-8; Ron Wright d. Don France 21-16, 21-8

Semis: Milewski d. Billhimer 21-17, 21-16; Hammond d. Wright 21-13. 21-11

Finals: Milewski d. Hammond 21-8, 21-20

#### Men's C

Quarters: Tom Kuzmik d. Skip Bradley 21-18, 21-19; Don DeGraff d. Danny Episcopo 21-19, 21-7; Larry Friedkin d. Rick Olmstead 21-11, 13-21, 11-8; Ken Laag d. Michael E. Vanore 21-7, 21-19

Semis: DeGraff d. Kuzmik 21-9, 21-19; Friedkin d. Laag 21-10, 21-16

Finals: Friedkin d. DeGraff 21-9, 21-10

#### Women's Open

Quarters: Carol Frenck d. Mary Jane Weldin 21-1, 21-2; Pattl Armstrong d. Pat Struthers 20-21, 21-12, 11-10; Debbie Mayhart d. Jo Ann Hughes 21-8, 21-5; Karen Borga d. Andrea Czarniecki 21-12, 21-8;

Semis: Frenck d. Armstrong 21-2, 21-2; Borga d. Mayhart 21-6, 21-13

Finals: Frenck d. Borga 21-15, 21-10

#### Women's B

Quarters: Mary Jane Weldin d. Cheryl Goppys 18-21, 21-18, 11-1; Valerie Ablaza d. Barbara Viera 21-7, 4-21, 11-5; Linda Ann Baumler d. Carey Gessley 21-6, 21-3; Gina Baldini, forfeit

Semis: Weldin d. Ablaza 21-3, 21-10; Baumler d. Baldini 21-16: 21-14

Finals: Baumler d. Weldin 8-21, 21-14, 11-2

#### Women's C

Quarters: Denise Piper d. Liz Berstter 21-20, 14-21, 11-9; Maria Scott d. Carey Gessley 21-19, 21-14; Lois Impagliazzo d. Theresa Burns 21-18, 21-10; Linda Bordas d. Valerie Ablaza 21-9, 21-16

Semis: Scott d. Piper 21-7, 21-5; Bordas d. Impagliazzo 21-7, 21-13

Finals: Scott d. Bordas 21-20, 15-21, 11-9

Juniors: Jim Mulvena went undefeated in a round-robin tournament to win first place.

#### Men's Open Doubles:

Semis: Jim Pruitt/Scott Ryan d. Tom Ranker/Jack Chelucci 21-15, 15-21, 11-8; Dave MacKelcan/John Chelucci d. Oryal Foraker/Pat Kelly 21-19, 7-21, 11-7 Finals: Ryan/Pruitt d. MacKelcan/Chelucci 12-21, 21-10, 11-10

## Women's Open Doubles

Semia: Carol Frenck/Linda Ann Baumler d. Jo Ann Hughes/Carpenter 21-1, 21-13; Patti Armstrong/Debble Mayhart d. Maria Scott/Karen Borga 21-12, 12-21, 11-10

Finals: Frenck/Baumler d. Armstrong/Mayhart 21-11, 21-19

## Ohio

The Courtrooms I, Brunswick, OH held its first annual winter breakout open tournament March 7-9.

#### Results

#### Men's Open

Semis: Clark Pittman d. Larry Morgan 21-6, 21-6; Jeff Riehl d. Kevin Dieghan 21-17, 21-20 Finals: Riehl d. Pittman 21-14, 17-21, 11-8

Men's B

Semis: Tim Diegan d. Dale Mutryn 21-11, 21-17; Frank Cremeens d. Bert Engel 7-21, 21-8, 11-8

Finals: Diegan d. Cremeens 21-10, 21-13

#### Men's

Semis: Mike Moritz d. Rick Senick 21-11, 21-6; Bob Marino d. Jeff Baldassari 21-6, 21-11

Finals: Marino d. Moritz 21-9, 21-20

#### Men's Senior

Semis: Jack Soble d. Pete Keiser 21-11, 21-7; Ray Kasi d. Ken Mitchell 18-21, 21-20, 11-7

Finals: Soble d. Kasl 21-15, 21-19

#### Women's Open

Semis: Becky Callahan d. Pat Martin 12-21, 21-10, 11-1; Trish Morphew d. Suzzi Retterer 21-20, 21-8

Finals: Morphew d. Callahan 21-14, 14-21, 11-9

#### Women's E

Semis: Ruth Samuels d. Christine Fischer 13-21, 21-16, 11-9; Justina Saxby d. Patty Nemeth 21-13, 21-13

Finals: Saxby d. Samuels 21-14, 9-21, 11-10

#### Women's C

Semis: Kathy Girardi d. Lucille McCollum 21-6, 21-15; Bonnie Kowalski d. Terry Justice 21-11, 21-7 Finals: Kowalski d. Girardi 21-19, 17-21, 11-1

## Connecticut

The "King of the Court" Racquetball was held on March 7-9 at the Center Court Health and Racquetball Club in Vernon with the proceeds donated to Multiple Sclerosis.

#### Results

#### Men's Open

Semis: Bob Carlson d. Rich Heubner 21-9, 21-14; Phil Staknis d. Joel Gitlin 21-13, 20-21, 5-11 Finals: Staknis d. Carlson 21-13, 21-12

#### Women's Open

Semis: Linda Carlson d. Gay Fiorentino 21-10, 21-17; Nancy Curtin d. Kathy Ogden 21-11, 21-19

Finals: Carlson d. Curtin 21-20, 21-20

#### Men's B

Semis: Harry Barney d. Andy Pisecki 21-16, 21-14; Scott Cushing d. Al Ledger 21-16, 21-18

Finals: Cushing d. Barney 21-13, 18-21, 11-2

#### Men's C

Semis: Tom Fiengo d. Bill Meakim 21-20, 21-3; Steve Bizon d. Frank Smith 21-13, 17-21, 11-4 Finals: Bizon d. Fiengo 21-10, 21-20

#### Master

Semis: Verne Burnett d. Henry Sladyk 21-8, 21-9; Joe Mazzotta d. Bob Dawson 21-10, 21-16

Finals: Burnett d. Mazzotta 21-17, 21-17

#### Juniors

Semis: Don Bennett d. Steve Ritchie 21-14, 20-21, 11-3; Joe Fiorentino d. Gary Littlefield 21-13, 11-21, 11-4

Finals: Bennett d. Fiorentino 21-12, 21-14

## **West Virginia**

The West Virginia sanctioned State Racquetball Tournament was hosted by the Racquetball and Health Club in Huntington March 15 and 16.

#### Results

#### Men's A

Quarters: Tom Lovins d. Jim Knapp 21-14, 21-7; Casey Brown d. Kevin Becker 21-17, 15-21, 11-6; Ted Gallagher d. Jeff Heath 21-13, 21-9; Dave Taylor d. Ken Skaggs 21-6, 21-8

Semis: Brown d. Lovins 21-16, 21-16; Taylor d. Gallagher 21-19, 10-21, 11-8

Finals: Taylor d. Brown 21-19, 21-11

#### Men's E

Quarters: Alex Wilson d. John Harvey 21-11, 21-4; Jim Delgado d. Virgil Smaltz 18-21, 21-16, 11-10; Mike Coyne d. Scott Lewis 21-20, 21-6; Michael Dye d. Jerry Logue 21-18, 9-21, 11-10

Semis: Wilson d. Delgado 21-9, 21-8; Coyne d. Dye 13-21, 21-13, 11-9

Finals: Coyne d. Wilson, default

#### Men's Novice

Quarters: Rick Mundrane d. Dave Bush 21-14, 21-11; Bob Rufus d. Jim Canterbury 21-13, 21-6; Rick Polkinghorn d. Joe Rosinski 21-11, 21-8; Domenick Poster d. Dean Dickson 18-21, 21-18, 11-3

Semis: Mundrane d. Rufus 19-21, 21-9, 11-0; Polkinghorn d. Poster 21-7, 21-6

Finals: Polkinghorn d. Mundrane 21-6, 12-21, 11-3

#### Women's A

Semis: Linda Holmes d. Jill Wiggins 21-7, 21-10; Lynn Aldrich d. Debra Weber 21-20, 21-19

Finals: Aldrich d. Holmes 10-21, 21-6, 11-4

#### Women's B

Semis: Karen Baker d. Sally Rumble 21-10, 21-7; Barbara Buckley d. Missy Shreve 21-13, 18-21, 11-7

Finals: Buckley d. Baker 21-17, 21-16

#### Women's Novice

Quarters: Mindy Shreve d. Irene Adams 21-8, 21-5, Katie Delgado d. Kim Hankins 21-12, 21-4; Donna Hodges d. Karen Davis 21-10, 18-21, 11-6; Babette D'Antoni d. Terri Sterling 21-9, 21-8

Semis: Shreve d. Delgado 21-16, 21-17; Hodges d. D'Antoni 21-19, 21-14

Finals: Hodges d. Shreve 19-21, 21-17, 11-10

#### Seniors:

Quarters: Chuck North d. Don Neurman, default; John Amos d. Marlin Hall 21-7, 21-5; Frank White d. Stave Darlington 11-21, 21-20, 11-0; Harry Berger d. John Stancik 21-10, 21-2

Semis: North d. Amos 21-13, 14-21, 11-4; Berger d. White 21-10, 21-20

Finals: North d. Berger 21-8, 21-12

#### Juniors

Semis: Scott Mitchell d. Scott Miller 21-15, 21-17; Shannon Dean d. Sean Gannon 21-0, 21-5 Finals: Mitchell d. Dean 21-20, 16-21, 11-10

#### len's A Doubles

Semis: Alex Wilson/Kevin Becker d. Jim Knapp/Kenneth Skaggs 21-11, 21-20; Chuck North/Scott Lewis d. Bob McNeil/Casey Brown 21-9, 21-11

Finals: North/Lewis d. Wilson/Becker, default

#### Men's B Doubles

Quarters: John Smith/John Martin d. Kevin Harvey/Joe Cervini 21-14, 21-16; Bryan Armstrong/Jim Sutton d. Steve Darlington/Bob Ashcraft 15-21, 21-12, 11-4; Jim Delgado/Larry Willis d. Jim Canterbury/Bill Carpenter 21-9, 21-9; Rollie Feuchtenberger/Virgil Smaltz d. Scott Miller/Shannon Dean 16-21, 21-20, 11-5

Semis: Smith/Martin d. Armstrong/Sutton 8-21, 21-11, 11-6; Delgado/Willis d. Feuchtenberger/Smaltz 21-13, 21-13

Finals: Smith/Martin d. Delgado/Willis 21-17, 14-21, 11-10

#### Women's Doubles

Semis: Lynn Aldrich/Karen Davis d. Sally Rumble/Patti Smalley 21-7, 21-8; Debra Weber/Karen Baker d. Linda Holmes/Beth Chenoweth 21-16, 21-20

Finals: Weber/Baker d. Aldrich/Davis, default

## **New York**

The third annual New Paltz State Racquetball Tourney took place March 14-16 at State University of New York College at New Paltz.

#### Results

#### Men's B

Quarters: Bill Austin d. Bob Finkelstein 13-21, 21-18, 11-3; Richard Castaldo d. David Hattman 21-12, 21-12; Ray Gianotti d. Jerry Martin 21-11, 21-19; Pete DiCicco d. Thomas Unrath 21-19, 21-9, 11-1

Semis: Castaldo d. Austin 21-13, 21-4; Gianotti d. DiCicco 21-7, 21-1

Finals: Castaldo d. Gianotti 21-8, 21-10

#### Men's C

Quarters: Michael Daniels d. Dave Eckwald 21-6, 21-8; David Baron d. Fred Biersack 21-15, 8-21, 11-9; Ed Grams d. Laura Baker 12-21, 21-14, 11-8; David Weinberg d. Robbie Kantor 5-21, 21-10, 11-9

Semis: Deniels d. Baron 21-8, 21-8; Weinberg d. Grams 21-14, 21-15

Finals: Daniels d. Weinberg 21-2, 21-4

#### Men's Seniors

Quarters: Herman Neumeier d. George Pressley 21-11, 21-15; Nat Finkel d. Doug Sheppard 21-18, 21-17; Tom Flannery d. David Weinberg 21-10, 21-11; Bob Lake d. Ray Primack 21-2, 21-2

Semis: Neumeier d. Finkel 21-8, 21-9; Lake d. Flannery 21-18, 21-20

Finals: Neumeier d. Lake 21-2, 21-10

#### Men's Doubles

Quarters: Muller/Lake d. Maslow/Glickman 21-12, 21-18; Berard/Daniels d. Longo/Sheppard 21-10, 21-5; Austin/Flannery d. Singer/Kahn 21-20, 21-16; Rubin/Castaldo d. Smith/Manning 21-3, 21-1

Semis: Berard/Daniels d. Muller/Lake 21-17, 21-18; Rubin/Castaldo d. Austin/Flannery 21-10, 14-21, 11-5

Finals: Berard/Daniels d. Rubin/Castaldo 21-12, 11-21, 11-10

#### Womens C

Quarters: Julia Unrath d. Monica Pauwels 21-4, 21-4; Lauren Shechet d. Linda Stern 21-14, 21-11; Deena Cohen d. Patricia DiCicco 21-11, 21-10; Gail Uellendahl d. Ricardia Myers 21-9, 21-9

Semis: Unrath d. Shechet 21-4, 21-10; Cohen d. Uellendahl 21-7, 21-11

Finals: Unrath d. Cohen 21-11, 16-21, 11-5

### Oklahoma

The culmination event of "Raquetball Week," as proclaimed by Oklahoma Governor George Nigh, and Tulsa Mayor James Inhofe, was the 1980 USRA Oklahoma State Singles Championships held at Benien Courts East in Tulsa March 21-23.

#### Results

Men's Open

Quarters: Marc Sanford d. Tom Farley 21-11, 21-6; Robert Savage d. Malcom Phelps 21-5, 21-13; Mark Fairbairn d. Tom Hadley 21-20, 21-17; Kent Taylor d. Dan Johnson 21-17; 21-10

Semis: Savage d. Sanford 21-13, 6-21, 11-7; Taylor d. Fairbairn 21-9, 21-14

Finals: Taylor d. Savage 21-7, 21-13 Cons: Ed Burke

Quarters: Lyn Johnson d. Mike Paulk 21-16, 21-10; Les Whitaker d. Mike Turner 21-10; 21-18; Mike Robison d. Tim Wesley 21-17, 21-14; Charles Bradley d. Greg Davis

Semis: Johnson d. Whitaker 16-21, 21-12, 11-9; Robison d.

Finals: Johnson d. Robison 21-16, 18-21, 11-3 Cons: James Burkett

Quarters: Mike Calavan d. Chris Williford 21-13, 21-6; Curtis McDonald d. Charles Talley 21-20, 21-12; Mark Hollman d. Larry Tower 20-21, 21-16, 11-0; Kenneth Moore d. Danny Thompson 21-15, 12-21, 11-5

Semis: Calavan d. McDonald 21-11, 21-8; Moore d. Hollman 21-13, 21-6

Finals: Calavan d. Moore 21-3, 21-17 Cons: Fred Cheek

Quarters: Rod Christy d. Rick Hamilton 14-21, 21-13, 11-8; Paul Arterberry d. Gene Herrera 21-15, 21-15; Colin Stangeby d. Darrell Manceaux 21-17, 19-21, 11-0; Rick Engles d. Ron Daley 21-6, 21-0

Semis: Christy d. Arterberry 21-14, 21-12; Stangeby d. Engles 21-11, 21-6

Finals: Stangeby d. Christy 21-6, 21-15 Cons: Lan Haverfield

Quarters: Billy Thornton d. John Trickett 21-12, 18-21, 11-9; George Lesikar d. Roy Wolf 21-16, 21-15; Walt Lipke d. Jay Brothers 21-8, 21-16; Bob Coe d. Gerry Wilburn 21-1, 21-13

Semis: Thornton d. Lesikar 21-9, 21-15; Coe d. Lipke 21-6,

Finals: Thornton d. Coe 15-21, 21-12, 11-4 Cons: John Trickett

Quarters: P.R. Murrell, bye: Dave Hessell d. Bill Fugerer 21-18, 21-9; Ned Lockwood d. Myron Peace 14-21, 21-16, 11-7; Ray Crowley, bye

Semis: Murrell d. Crowley 21-8, 21-9 Cons: Bill Fugerer

#### Women's Open

Round Robin: 1st-Carol Goddard, 2nd-Lynn Gebetsberger, 3rd-Betty Kennett

#### Women's B

Quarters: Claudia Kovar d. Dana Jezek 21-6, 21-9; Annie Shurtleff d. Melinda Shaver 21-20, 21-16; Maggie Waller d. Barbara Coley 21-12, 19-21, 11-6; Meredith Frailey d. Peggy Lipke 21-5, 21-5

Semis: Kovar d. Shurtleff 21-8, 21-8; Frailey d. Waller 21-3,

Finals: Kovar d. Frailey 21-16, 13-21, 11-9 Cons: Teresa Morrison

#### Women's C

Quarters: Lucy Cotton d. Kathy Murray 21-10, 21-11; Beverly Fugerer d. Lynn Burba 21-2, 21-7; Deborah Pickard d. Ann Olshaw 21-5, 15-21, 11-3; Joyce Nichols d. Diana Potts 21-6, 21-5

Semis: Fugerer d. Cotton: Nichols d. Pickard 21-16, 21-17 Finals: Nichols d. Fugerer 21-19, 18-21, 11-2 Cons: Ann

#### Women's D

Quarters: Maureen Johnston d. Terry Hamilton 21-16, 18-21, 11-2; Sharyon Doshier d. Mary Trammell 21-13, 21-4; Leslie Harp d. Diane Rindahl 21-9, 21-8; Shirley Turner d. Lynn Gudenburr 21-6, 21-13

Semis: Johnston d. Doshier 12-21, 21-5, 11-7; Harp d. Turner 21-5, 21-6

Finals: Harp d. Johnston 21-12, 21-18 Cons: Rita Clark



## Are You Interested in Becoming A Racquetball Court Club Owner/Operator?

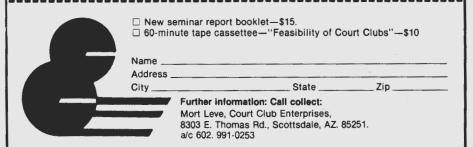
We can offer you a full consultation service, from the beginning feasibility/projection study, thru design and construction methods, sales campaigns, management, operations, promotions.

Periodic development seminars, and management/personnel workshops.

> Individualized one-on-one service. Now available—Needed "Tools"

In conjunction with Dr. Joseph Bannon, head of Leisure Studies School, University of Illinois.

Coming up: Combined three day court club development seminar and management/workshop. Spend a weekend in the Colorado Rockies—Vail Athletic Club and Hotel. July 11-12-13.



## Upcoming Events

July 25-27

The Phil Geiger Invitational Racquetball Classic, Hopewell Valley Racquetball Club, Box 277, Pennington, NJ 08534



Send your classified ad to Joe Ardito, National Racquetball, 4101 Dempster, Skokie. IL 60076. Deadline for classifieds, at \$2.50 a word, is 45 days before the month of publication.

## CLUB AVAILABLE NORTHERN **MICHIGAN**

6 Racquetball Courts Large Physical Fitness Center Cocktail Lounge Possible P.O. Box 588 Alpena, MI 49707

## Do You Really Want to Win?

Racquetball players can learn if they have the mental set to win their matches by working with the Institute for the Study of Athletic Motivation (ISAM), a sort of mail order shrink with an impressive list of satisfied clients.

The Institute has developed the Athletic Motivation Inventory (AMI), a 190-item questionnaire that — until recently — has been used only by big time professional teams like the Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Yankees to measure

the potential of player prospects. In some cases the test results have convinced management to hold on to average-looking rookies who later realized the bright future predicted by their AMI scores.

The AMI tests 11 athletic attitudes that research has proven to be directly related to success in sport. Those traits are drive, aggressiveness, determination, guilt-proneness, leadership, self-confidence, emotional control, mental toughness, coachability, consci-

entiousness and trust.

A client receives the eightpage pamphlet containing test questions, circles the multiple choice answers and mails the answer sheet back to the ISAM. There staff members analyze the answers, and within four days prepare an eight-page personalized report describing how the client scored in each of the 11 areas and how the client can maintain or improve in each area.

"For instance," explains ISAM President Bill

Winslow, "a person who scores low in determination might be told to establish reasonable goals — like playing three complete games instead of giving up. Or a person who scores low in emotional control might be encouraged to review the circumstances that cause the loss of control — maybe they're too tired when they play or their opponents are too tough."

The test costs \$25 and is available through the ISAM, 2025 Gateway Pl., Suite 414, San Jose, CA 95110.

## Racquetball Movie Guide

Films catching the action of racquetball are popular for introducing, promoting and explaining the sport.

USRA staff members know that's a fact because dozens of requests for movie information come into headquarters each week.

To save you a long distance call to the USRA here's a list of some of the racquet-ball films available.:

Four part instruction.
 The first reel of this series, which features USRA staff members, is an excellent racquetball introduction.

Write Athletic Institute, 200 Castlewood Dr., North Palm Beach, FL 33408 or call 305-842-3600.

- Pro matches. Highlights of the 1977 Nationals come in three-quarter inch tape cassettes that play for 10, 30 or 90 minutes. Write Atlas Health Club, 901 Hotel Circle South, San Diego, CA 92138 or call 714-298-9321.
- Off the Wall. This light hearted introduction starring Steve Strandemo is available for \$30 rental. Write Pyramid Films, Box 1048, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

## **Shopping Racquetball**

Nancy and Jim Kerns, from the Dubuque (IA) Racquet Club talk racquetball with Seamco Sporting Goods' midwest representative, Marv Rose, at the recent National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) show in Chicago.

-- Ivan Fuldauer photo



## **Interpreter Not Needed**

Linda Iafallo's deaf students at Helen C. Cannon Junior High School in Las Vegas learned racquetball fundamentals from four pros at a recent clinic at the Las Vegas Racquetball Club.

Charles Smith, Rich Stock, Anthony Green and John Gui spent two hours in the glass court with Touring Pros Steve Sulli, Dennis McDowell, Phil Wenge and Jerry lafollo, Linda's brother. After an hour of basics the students were ready for round robin competition.



Left to right, Linda Iafollo, Phil Wenge, Anthony Green, Jerry Iafollo, Charles Smith and Steve Sulli.

Their teacher says that after a few minutes on the court with the professionals "they didn't need me. When you learn racquetball, you're learning a new language form. I think I was called on three times to interpret for them.

"One of the best ways a teacher can help a student is to share experiences. I'm always on the lookout for opportunities to pull these kids together. And racquetball accomplished that."

-Mike Craig

## The Best of the Three R's

### Proof of the Pudding

If you want to indulge in gooey cakes and other goodies, be our guest, but know, too, that this is how much of these exercises the average 120-pound woman would have to do to whittle off all those tempting calories:

Food	н	ow Long You Must Exerc	ise
	Racquetball	Roller Skating	Rope Skipping
1 scoop of ice cream (150 cal.)	15 minutes	31 minutes	21 minutes
1 oz. potato chips (162 cal.)	16 minutes	34 minutes	23 minutes
1 slice of chocolate cake (250 cal.)	24 minutes	52 minutes	35 minutes
1 piece of pizza (200 cal.)	19 minutes	41 minutes	28 minutes
1 slice of apple pie (325 cal.)	31 minutes	67 minutes	46 minutes

Comparing racquetball with roller skating and rope skipping Gillian Gray

reports in Woman's Day that the court sport offers the quickest route to

shaping up. This chart is reprinted by permission of Woman's Day Magazine,

Copyright (c) 1979 by CBS Publications, Inc.:

## **Baseball Pros Face Football Pros**

Pro baseball players turned in their bats for racquets to take on pro football players and coaches in the first annual "Pro Wars" tourney in March at Stadium Racquetball & Athletic Club



in San Diego. Two of the participants, San Diego Chargers Mike "Woodie" Wood, left, and Hank "The Howitzer" Bauer are roomies, but met as rivals on the court.

## The Fruit Juices

A racquetball first has just occurred at the Spaulding Racquetball Club in Northbrook, IL: a team of A players, holding a spirited locker room discussion on what to call themselves, asked Player-Coach President Art Shay, veteran sports photographer and author, how other teams chose their name. "Most teams seem to have a big sign or something in the locker room - 'I like Chicago Cubs' 'LA Rams'and all the shirts and jerseys say the same," he replied. Looking around the Spaulding Club's dressing room, he spied the Fruit Juices machine — and said. "There! We have our own locker room sign - Free!"

Thus was born the seven member group that wears bright green jerseys with "Fruit Juices" in yellow.



Since the picture was taken there have been 12 applications for membership.

Getting into the Fruit Juices is quite complicated. A candidate must beat two

Fruit Juices members in at least one out of three games each, and be of fair to good moral character and not currently out on bail.

So far four new memberships are pending. Illinois Governor Jim Thompson was made an honorary member for having risen from a C player to a low B player, and Thompson has already placed his Fruit Juices shirt on display with other Illinois oddities at the State Mansion in Springfield.

Left to right, seated:
Marshall Friedman, club
secretary; Bill Brin, club
treasurer; Garris Graham,
club entertainment
coordinator; Art Shay,
president; back row: Tony
Buckun, club legal advisor;
Bill Schatz; sergeant-atarms; Pope Moss, club
religious advisor.

## The Racquetball Route to "Claire de Lune"

School teachers can become better teachers by learning to play racquetball.

That was the conclusion of Purdue University's Ed Vockell, Ph.D., after 12 sessions of "The Psychology of Skill Development," met at Omni-41 in Schereville, IN, last summer.

Vockell, an educational psychologist who played racquetball as a hobby, instructed teachers, earning Purdue University credit for an educational psychology and physical education course. The textbook was Developing Racquetball Skills, which Vockell wrote with Ottis Campbell, supplemented by back issues of National Racquetball magazine.

The only formal instruction was in basics the first day, in



backhand and off-the-wall shots a week later and in brief comments in a weekly game. Len Sporman, Omni's director and teaching pro, led voluntary clinics for small groups. All other learning was self-taught or from fellow students.

Vockell found that the students were able to carry over the principles they learned playing racquetball to other activities.

Many applied what they'd learned to other sports, raising bowling totals and lowering golf scores. One student taught someone

Purdue students earned credit in educational psychology, as well as P.E., in a course Ed Vockell, left, taught at Omni-41 in Schereville, IN.

how to type, using the psychological techniques she'd applied to racquetball. In two novel applications a student increased her efficiency as a telephone salesperson and another, who was not an accomplished pianist, taught herself to play "Claire de Lune" by applying techniques she'd learned in the course.

"These widespread applications," Vockell says, "suggest that the students did, in fact, master not just a new skill in racquetball, but generalized strategies which can be applied to any area where learning psychomotor skills is important."

# NOW THE CROWD PLEASER IS A PLAYER PLEASER TOO!



# Introducing TWIN-VUE Glass Walls.

The crowd sees it as clear glass. The players see it as solid wall.

Up to now, attracting the spectators has always meant distracting the players—with backgrounds that intrude on every shot. But not any more. Now, patented TWIN-VUE glass lets the players concentrate totally on their game, as if they had the house to themselves. They see opaque walls on all sides. Yet they're surrounded by spectators watching the action more clearly than they would through conventional glass.

With TWIN-VUE, switch on the specified lighting system and the surface as seen from the inside appears milk-white, shutting out the outside to the players. While from the fans' point of view, the action comes through sharper than ever. Even television through TWIN-VUE is far superior.

With TWIN-VUE, YOU PLEASE EVERY-BODY. A better window for the crowd. A

better wall for the players. Our standard two-way glass wall has always been the finest you could install. But now, by applying the TWIN-VUE process, we've made our best even better.

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Standard Features For Every
ELLIS PEARSON GLASS WALL SYSTEM
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Fully installed anywhere
Five year Warranty.

OFFICIAL GLASS WALL OF THE U.S. RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE U.S. HANDBALL ASSOCIATION.



TWIN-VUE R
Glass Walls
All the action.
No distraction.

# Opposing the Opposite Sex

## How to Start A Male-Female League

## by Connie Peterson

Courtsports II in Eugene, OR, has solved what seems to be a major problem for the woman player who has reached a club Class A level and has no one left to play. Courtsports gives women an opportunity to compete with the men by running a "Challenge of the Sexes" League. Since I initiated the league, we've had to start a waiting list that now has more men on it than women.

Previously many of the men players in Eugene did not realize women could play the game of racquetball competitively. They rarely observed the woman player unless she was "something to look at". Therefore their observations of the women players were very limited. BUT the men in the league no longer feel that way.

In fact the reasons why the men enjoy the league are quite encouraging to the woman player.

- Paul Gallegos: "The women players have opened my eyes. I didn't know they could play that well or be that competitive. The game is much more relaxing, not a kill-kill game like when you play the men. You can see what the game is more about."
- Dan Espalin: "The women play a slower more deliberate game. I get a better insight of what the game is. Skillwise the women play a much better game, having problems only with power shots."
- Bob Phillips: "I like playing members of the opposite sex. In racquetball the women seem to be able to compete more equally with the men than in other sports. I find there is more on the line, as far as selfrespect is concerned, and it makes the game more interesting."

As for the women players they all felt they benefited from the league tremendously. They won the respect of the men players, they improved their level of play and they had the chance to meet and play new people. Christy Tinker calls the matches "extremely competitive. There is an added incentive to play well against the men not only for myself, but for the women as a team. Competing against men has improved my game. I'm quicker on the court, and my endurance has increased."

Patti Curtis likes the "chance to show the men that we share equal abilities on the court," and Shirley Janz, who never had played a male player besides her husband, says the league has improved her quickness on the court and added more power to her shots. It has done both, and "it's helped me to play better against the women players, too."

Now that you've heard the testimonials, you must be ready to get a "Challenge of the Sexes" league going in your club. Here's how I set it up at Courtsports II.

First I found an equal number of male and female players by putting up a sign and making some phone calls. I matched up the women's A players to the men's B players and the women's B players to the men's C players. I made out a league schedule and gave everyone a copy. The club has a league scoring wall where I included a large schedule for everyone to see. (See a copy on these pages.) I made it more interesting by cutting pictures of beautiful, healthy women out of fashion magazines and put one of the participants names under each of them. That is for the women. For the men the pictures weren't quite so attractive. I cut out pictures from big time wrestling magazines, the "before" diet ads, and cartoon type characters and placed each with the name of one of the male participants. ((A little sexist - yes, but, a very good attention getter.) People from Courtsports I, which is across town, came to look at their buddies' pictures, or the raving beauties.

Teaching Pro Connie Peterson is the Courtsports II matchmaker.





Dan Espalin gets "new insights into the game", playing against Patty Curtis.

Once the league got going, I assigned a woman to play a different man each week. The players were responsible for arranging a time to play, then they called the club and reserved a court. A match consisted of lagging for the serve, and the playing of two games to 21 points. No tie-breaker. Scoring was based upon the number of games won, and then if there was a tie, in games won, total points.





Jon Holmquist, Dan Espalin, Patty Curtis and Bob Phillips, left to right, discuss the tactics that led to the men's team win.

## Challenge of the Sexes League

Womens A Playe	ers			Mens B	Players		
1.Dorene Schuette	H)	0) 687	7-2225	A. Jack He	eeter H)	688-7893	0)
2. Patty Curtis	H) 484-1407	0)		B. Bob Phi	llips H)	683-4624	0) 484-0035
3. Peggy Mower	H) 747-5213	0)		C. Paul Ga	llegos H)	688-1187	0)
4. Shirley Janz	H) 746-7730	0)		D. Jon Hol	mquist H)	484-1407	0)
5. Linda Hoover	H( 434-5423	0)		E. Tom We	ebb H)	344-2391	
6. Christy Tinker	H) 344-4739	0)		F. Dan Esp	alin H)	345-5244	0)
7. Colleen Rudd	H) 689-5299	0)		G. Larry P.	arks H)	686-2844	0)
8. Tammy Aydelott	H) 688-0943	0) 34	4-0741	H. Lloyd H	enderson H)	344-2348	0) 689-073
Play the							
Week of: 11/5	11/12	11/19	11/26	12/3	12/10	12/17	1/4 (play
1-A	1-B	1-C	1-D	1-E	1-F	1-G	1-H before
2-B	2-C	2-D	2-E	2-F	2-G	2-H	2-A
3-C	3-D	3-E	3-F	3-G	3-H	3-A	3-B
4-D	4-E	4-F	4-G	4·H	4-A	4-B	4-C
5-E	5-F	5-G	5-H	5-A	5-B	5-C	5-D
6-F	6-G	6-H	6-A	6-B	6-C	6-D	6-E
7-G	7-H	7-A	7-B	7-C	7-D	7-E	7-F
8-H	8-A	8-B	8-C	8-D	8-E	8-F	8-G

We ended the league with a two hour round robin play on a Friday evening. The women competed against the men once again, playing 10 minute games with each of them. The person winning the most games won the play for that evening. There were winners for the top male and female scorer for the weekly league and a team trophy for the most wins on the men's or women's team. A trophy which stands in the club was presented to the top scoring team, which did happen to be the men's team the first time around.

For Courtsports II there were many advantages to this league setup:

- The club did not have to pre-book the courts as it must when a league is scheduled for a certain day and time. This does not take away court-time from other possible users of the court.
- · There are no problems with "no shows" for the court, since the courts are not pre-scheduled. The person(s) reserving the court are responsible for the court.
- The responsibility is totally on the individuals to play their matches. This means less work for the program director.
- Anyone interested in participating may do so, since they arrange their own matches.
- · The club will be generating income every time a match is played.

Jon Holmquist was the only male who won all of his matches against the female players. His reaction to the league? "When I first stepped onto the court with a woman player, my immediate attitude was condescending, but when my first serve was killed in the corner I quickly learned respect. Competing with women gives the game an added dimension. It's fun, social and educational. You quickly develop a unique comaraderie that can't be found elsewhere."

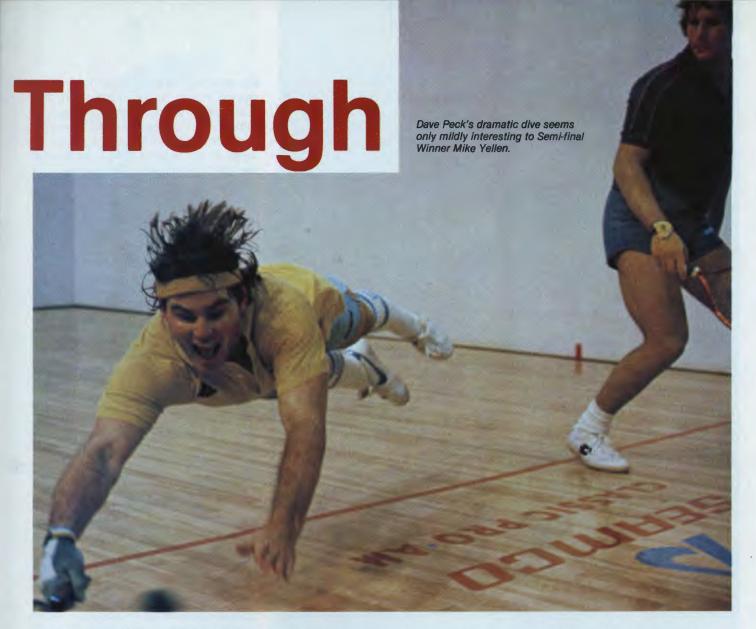
When I asked if he would sign up again, he answered "I already have."

# Yellen Breaks

by Tom Reinman

Steady, Tough Play Beats Marty Hogan in Mike's 61 Minute Premier Pro Finals Win

Mike Yellen, right, gets his body through the shot as his forehand putaway nails another point into Marty Hogan's tournament loss.



For 10 weeks the not so "Little Engine That Could" chugged through Miami, Denver, San Francisco and Westminster before hitting Beverly, MA, a small town about 30 miles up the North Shore from Boston.

For 10 weeks, after each of four stops, it was "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can." Finally after coasting over the top of the hill in Beverly, it was "I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could."

Finally Mike Yellen did. The 1977 Rookie of the Year who made it as high as number three in the National Racquetball Club player rankings last year before falling to Hogan in the finals of the Nationals, the Nice Guy who finished last in the first stop this year and early in the other events, Mike Yellen defeated Marty Hogan 21-16, 21-11 and won his first pro tournament, the \$15,000 Seamco Classic.

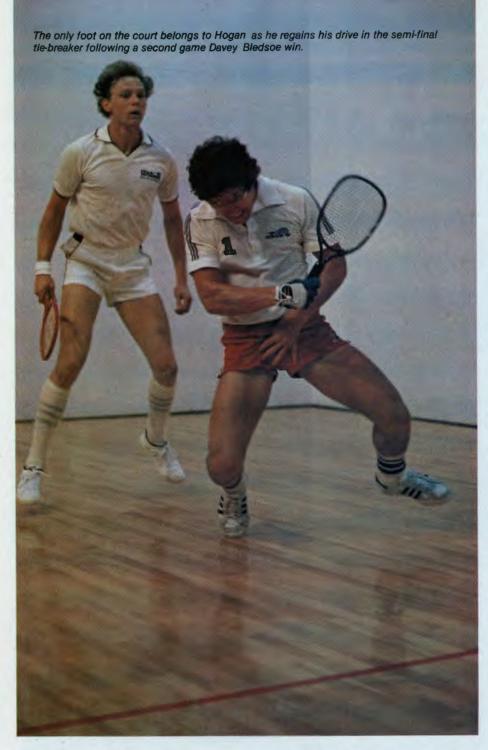
The Seamco Classic, the seventh stop on the 1979-80 NRC Pro-Am tour, cosponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods, was held April 9-13 at the Playoff Racquetball and Handball Club, one of several owned and operated by New England Patriot Center Bill Lenkaitis and Former Patriot Star Receiver Randy Vataha.

"I'm glad I finally made this step," said Yellen after pocketing the \$4,500 first prize. "I've been telling people for weeks my game has been getting there. I'm happy to prove that. I hope I made some believers today."

In making short work of a careless Marty Hogan Yellen must have made believers of the capacity crowds that filled the house through the week. After three years on the tour, after 10 weeks of "getting there," it took Mike Yellen just 61 minutes to arrive.

Two weeks earlier Hogan was an hour tardy for his championship match with Dave Peck. This time he was only a half hour late. But unlike his performance in Westminster this one was uninspired. After taking a 15-13 lead in the first game he could break Yellen only once. In the second game, after leading 10-9, he managed to break Yellen six times, but scored only once.

Yellen scored 14 points on his service, including three aces. His mix of drives to both sides, hard Zs and lobs to the backhand appeared to have Hogan guessing throughout the match. Hogan isn't the guy who gets the late start, who gets caught leaning, who clubs off balance returns. Not usually. But then neither is he the guy who commits 14 skipped balls.



"The serve really wasn't that effective," maintained Hogan, even after hearing the number of serve points he gave up. "Hey even after 14 points it should have been closer than it was.

"My whole problem was a lackadaisical approach. Just no intensity. Whenever I'm going three games with guys like Brumfield or Bledsoe, you know my intensity's not there." It was there when it counted against Charlie Brumfield in the quarter-finals when Hogan won 21-17, 18-21, 11-0 and against Bledsoe in the semi-finals when he won 21-9, 20-21, 11-1. In fact only an unforced error against Bledsoe in the third game prevented Hogan from dealing donuts in three straight tie-breaker matches. (He had zipped Peck in the aforementioned Westminster match two weeks earlier).

But whether it was there or not against Yellen, Hogan was beaten, he didn't lose. Yellen played flawlessly throughout the week, beating Beaver Wickham in the first round, Lindsay Myers in the second, Don Thomas in the quarters and Dave Peck in the semis.

"That was a tough match," said Yellen of his bout with second-seeded Peck, to whom he had lost 11-10 in San Francisco a month earlier. "But that's nothing new. He has established himself this year as a guy to beat, like Marty. I've lost to both of them in the last two stops. But like I've been saying, my game has been getting there."

Yellen's steady play was no secret or surprise to the smart money at the tournament, which put out the line of Yellen and two points per game in the finals.

One who took Yellen and the points was Don Thomas. "He's really on his game," reasoned Thomas, who had lost 12 and 13 in the quarters to Yellen. "He keeps you reaching all the time. His game isn't flashy, just very solid. Guys like Hogan and Peck really like to hit the ball most of the time, and when they're not hot, they can be hurt. Yellen's just steady and tough all the time."

Especially in the finals this time, when he was guilty of just two point producing errors in the match.

What Hogan had said of Yellen after their semi-finals match in Westminster certainly applied in Beverly: "There's a lot of good players, but very few good smart players. He's one of them."

It took more than two hours, but Yellen outlasted Peck 21-20, 10-21, 11-8. He trailed Peck 15-9 in the first game before leading 20-17. Peck came back to tie it, but a cross court wide pinch gave Yellen the serve, and a forehand side wall - front wall won it.

In the tie-breaker Yellen broke a 6-6 tie with four straight and then hung on as Peck staged another comeback, but again, one that was too little too late.

"I don't know what it is," said Peck after the match. "There's no question he's playing very well, you know, but I'm just not right myself. But this is turning into a nice rivalry, anyway."



On the way to the semis: Yellen beats Don Thomas, upper left; Peck downs Steve Strandemo, lower left; Hogan defeats Charlie Brumfield, upper right, and Bledsoe is victorious over Doug Cohen.



It marked the first time since November that Peck wasn't playing Sunday, and he admitted that being number two, he found himself trying harder.

"There's all sorts of pressure all of a sudden," he said at one point during the week. "It's tough being up all the time. I know I'm putting some pressure on myself, but I've got to learn to live with that. It goes with being a top ranked player and I've got to get used to it. It's just different from the way things were a little while ago, like even at the beginning of this year.

"Maybe I'm thinking too much about the Nationals. I've got to remember that there's a lot to do before we get there."

Barring a horrendous showing in the last tour stop, the Catalina Classic in Atlanta, Peck should maintain his number two ranking going into Las Vegas in June, and if Yellen stays hot, he'll remain number three, ahead of Jerry Hilecher.

Steve Strandemo continues to be the steadiest player on the circuit. At 32 years of age he's the oldest of the touring pros, but aside from Hogan he's the only one in the top 10 whose rank hasn't changed since September. In seven stops he's made the semis once, the quarters five times and the 16s once.

Meanwhile the second oldest regular. Charlie Brumfield, whose modest claim to fame is that he's the only guy on the tour to win pro stops in three decades, has come on of late. After a rocky start he's hit the semis once and quarters twice in the last three events to stay firmly ensconced in the top 10.

In fact the only two players not in the top 10 who were there at the outset are Craig McCoy and Rich Wagner, both of whom have been hampered with injuries through the season.

Coming out of the Beverly tournament they've been replaced by Larry Meyers and Don Thomas.





(First round): Hogan d. Hawkins 21-19, 21-7; Zuckerman d. Barrett 21-6, 19-21, 11-4; Levine d. Fleetwood 21-10, 21-7; Brumfield d. Harvey 21-12, 19-21, 11-5; Bledsoe d. Vierra 21-9, 21-7; Koltun d. Chase 21-13, 15-21, 11-2; Cohen d Martino 21-1, 21-7; Hilecher d. Niederhoffer 21-10, 21-13; Yellen d. Wicham 18-21, 21-5, 11-1; Myers d. Mondry 21-10, 21-10; McCoy d. McDonough 21-20, 21-15; Thomas d Bowman 18-21, 21-13, 11-4; Strandemo d. Serot 21-9, 21-8; Christensen d. Meyers 21-16, 17-21, 11-4; Peck d. Egerman

(Second round): Hogan d. Zuckerman 21-20, 21-18; Brumfield d. Levine 21-10, 21-10; Bledsoe d. Koltun 21-9, 16-21, 11-7; Cohen d. Hilecher 21-17, 21-15; Yellen d. Myers 21-20, 21-11; Thomas d. McCoy 21-10, 21-5; Strandemo d. Morrow 21-9, 21-10; Peck d. Christensen

(Quarter-finals): Hogan d. Brumfield 21-17, 18-21, 11-0; Bedsoe d. Cohen 21-12, 21-3; Yellen d. Thomas 21-12, 21-13; Peck d. Strandemo 21-11, 21-8

(Semi-finals): Hogan d. Bledsoe 21-9, 20-21, 11-1; Yellen d. Peck 21-19, 10-21, 11-8

(Finals): Yellen d. Hogan 21-16, 21-11







National Racquetball February cover star, Bob Cousy, basketball All-American, ends his game against Playoff Co-owner and Former New England Patriot Randy Vataha, right, with an on-court greeting for NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler, second from left, and Seamco President Al Mackie.

#### Notes of the Tournament . . .

The Boston Globe made racquetball front page sports news in a story and photos on Marty Hogan, plus features on other top players every day of the tournament. Marty answered viewers' questions when he starred on a half hour local TV sports show . . . The tournament at Playoff Racquetball/Handball Club in suburban Beverly lived up to all the publicity. The packed gallery witnessed a string of exciting matches. And pro players were talking about the outstanding hospitality, which included free food and drink (in unlimited amounts) for all pros, courtesy of Sneakers, the host club's lounge-snack bar, and a pre-tournament party at the Radisson Ferncroft in Danvers, MA tour headquarters. Amateurs were happy, too - with \$5,000 worth of prizes from Woolworth-Woolco . . . George Matthews, Randy Vataha, Bill Lenkaitis and Allen Misiph, owners of LMV Leisuretime Inc., which operates the Playoff Racquetball/Handball franchises, and Jim McElvenny, Beverly's Playoff manager, were at the pro/am matches every day of the tournament, extending courtesies to fans, players and the tournament sponsor - Seamco Sporting Goods, which - in addition to supporting the Boston event - helps finance the entire NRC pro tour along with Leach Industries . . . Cheering at the tournament they were sponsoring was the Seamco brass — President Al Mackie and his wife, Nancy; National Sales Manager Art Orloski; Director of Racquetball Promotions Jim Aimick; National Accounts Sales Manager Mary Konowitz and Eastern Regional Sales Manager Greg Forbush . . .

George Vierra, right, stays in center court to beat Beaver Wickham in the Men's Open finals. Both Men's and Women's Open winners earned trips to the June Nationals in Las Vegas.

NRC/USRA President Bob Kendler was main speaker at Seamco's "Salute to the Retailers of America" awards cocktail party Saturday night at the Radisson Ferncroft, where retailers from coast to coast socialized with Former Football Greats Vataha and Lenkaitis, Basketball All-American Bob Cousy, Racquetball Pioneer Joe Sobek, Playoff Owners Matthews and Misiph and some of the tour's top racquetball pros - Hogan, Davey Bledsoe, Dave Peck, Steve Strandemo, Jerry Hilecher, Lindsay Myers and Don Thomas . . Efficient tournament directors were Sue Eckeesian, Ron Miano and Jimbo Daley. Daley was a finalist in the men's Seniors and supplied three sons - Jimmy, Kevin and Michael (Kevin and Michael are on the cover) - for towel boy honors. Jimmy, 14, and their sister, Tracy, 13, also played, with Tracy winning the women's novice. David Simonette, who's 11 and a regular USRA National Juniors competitor, faced players twice his size in the men's B until he lost in the quarters (David's on the cover, too) . . . Among USRA state chairmen playing and spectating were Jack Fruin, Connecticut; Tom O'Dwyer, Vermont, and Tom Flannery, New York . . . Wagner's Thirst Quencher was available in plentiful

amounts, with players using it as refreshers during time outs...But NRC Director Dan Bertolucci said even a quart of Wagner's was not enough to overcome Vataha's home court advantage in an unscheduled encounter.

In the Women's Open finals Winner Bonnie Stoll, left, thinks she can talk the ball to the front wall, but Janet Simon is confident the ball won't listen.





## Atlanta Makes It

Fans watch a classic control performance ending in a tie-breaker that gives Mike Yellen, left, the tournament win over Jerry Hilecher.

- Dan Littlejohn photos

NATIONAL RACQUETBALL 75

## Two for Yellen

Michigan's Mike Puts Control to work against Jerry Hilecher after Beating Hogan in the Semis

Marty Hogan goes on the offensive-but only temporarily-in a semis competition in which Yellen displays control, form and anticipation.

by Tom Reinman

Maybe there was something in the grits at the Ramada Inn, but things in Atlanta hadn't been so, well, strange, since a a hard hitting righthander named Sherman blazed his way through the finals there.

Mike Yellen, a good, steady player who hadn't won a Pro-Am tournament in four years on the Leach/Seamco NRC tour, won his second straight and looked unbeatable doing it.

Ask Marty Hogan. He got a plane from San Diego and practically vowed he would blow through the field, even made a bet that Yellen wouldn't score 10 points per game against hirn, certainly looked like he was trying and lost for the second straight event.

Lindsay Myers, a five time Canadian National champion who had yet to play on the second day of a pro tour event this season, went to the semifinals, shipping two top 10 ranked players en route.

Dave Peck, the once affable court clown and two time winner, broke a racquet and punched his way out of the court after losing in the quarterfinals.

And who was the lanky guy in the yellow headband, anyway? The guy they had in mind when they coined the phrase "Bad News." Jerry Hilecher? Couldn't be. This guy was smiling on the court. Yup that was Jerry Hilecher.

That, in a pecan shell, was the story April 30 - May 4 at the \$15,000 Catalina Racquetball Classic East at the Atlanta Sporting Club where Mike Yellen defeated Jerry Hilecher 18-21, 21-14, 11-5. The \$4,500 win in the eighth of nine stops on the tour cosponsored by Leach Industries and Seamco Sporting Goods gave Yellen \$13,500 in tour eamings this season, and boosted him into second place in the NRC player rankings heading into the National championships.

"I'm happy with the win for a lot of reasons, but the big thing is it shows I can play against different styles and win," said Yellen Sunday afternoon.

"I've gotten used to the power game this year. So to come in here and win against this style is really satisfying."

"This style" was about as close to the old control game as one is likely to see on the pro circuit these days. Long rallies, lots of lob serves and ceiling rallies, a flurry of hot shots, the cover-up and ceiling rally again until a mistake was made, then a putaway.

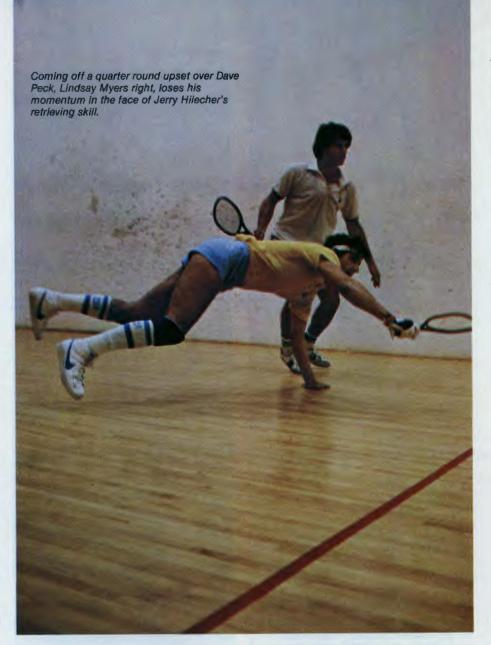
Hilecher opened with his hard serves, but Yellen handled them and even took a 6-1 lead, which prompted Hilecher to shift gears and go with the lob serve and ceiling balls to Yellen's backhand, followed with the killshot of a mis-hit lob.

That worked, because from a 6-1 deficit, Hilecher outscored Yellen 15-2, and then hung on as Yellen stormed back to tie it at 18-18. Finally a pass down the left line, a no return Z serve and a forehand kill off a mis-hit gave Hilecher the game.

He started off quickly in the second game, grabbing a 7-1 lead. But then it was Yellen's turn to streak. He had the pace figured and went with it, plodding along to tie it at 8-all, to lead 14-8, 16-11, 17-14.

It was more of the same in the tiebreaker, with Hilecher again taking the early lead at 4-2 before Yellen slowly, steadily, unspectacularly - but surely - came back for the win. After Hilecher led 4-2, he could only break Yellen once and score one point. All he could do to stop Yellen after he led 5-as call time out.

"I was surprised he used that game plan," said Yellen, known as a control player more than for his power. "But once I figured it out and made the



adjustment, I was okay. He's a deadly serve and shooter, and you have to be conscious of that all the time."

"It must have been kind of dull for the spectators with all those ceiling balls," allowed Hilecher. "That's the way they played 10 years ago. But I thought that's what it would take to beat him. I think I played well, just not well enough to beat him."

He did play well, although not as well as Yellen, who went through the first three rounds in two games apiece, and didn't allow more than nine points until he led 17-3 in his sixth game of the toumament.

It was Hilecher's third final round appearance, which made it nothing new, except the way he arrived there.

Known for his ref-baiting, stalling and general ill-humor on the court he refused to admit to taking Mr. Nice Guy pills in Atlanta, but there was no denying his approach was all new.

"If I feel I'm playing well I don't get frustrated. Also I thought the officiating overall was very good for a change. I don't like to complain about refs, you know."

One would never have guessed that after watching a season full of tantrums for which he has taken. considerable heat in the press from time to time. But whether the officiating had improved — though the same four guys handled the chores as always do - or his play improved or he just got tired of playing the villain, it's important for people to know that the lanky guy in the yellow headband really is Jerry Hilecher.









Marty Hogan. The word was he wasn't playing much racquetball and when he did it was doubles, that it was getting tougher and tougher for him to get up for matches. His word was "I played terrible racquetball. I haven't played a full game since last year's Nationals. But there's only one important tournament for me each year and that's the Nationals. I will be ready for that and no one will stop me."

Yellen stopped him in Atlanta by handling his serve, making very few mistakes and scoring points in bunches. "I'm playing well and I'm playing my game," offered Yellen. "Marty seems to be a little off, and I'm able to take advantage of it, that's all. I'm happy with my game."

If people were wondering how Hogan could have two straight poor showings, maybe they were wondering how Lindsay Myers could pick this draw to have such a good

one. To say that he was struggling this year would be charitable. Then he appears in Atlanta and eliminates eighth ranked Davey Bledsoe in the first round, fellow Canadian Ross Harvey in the 16s, and second seeded Dave Peck in the quarters.

"Every time I go home to Vancouver I see Dr. Lee Pulos, and every time I come away I play much better. I'm totally relaxed. My head's in a much better space and that's made a big difference."

Whether it was the hypnosis with Pulos and the resulting better head space or the snorts of oxygen from a portable tank during his time outs or something else again, Myers, who hits the ball very hard, played well until he met Hilecher, whose serves befuddled him throughout the match.

That Myers played so well was surprising to some but frustrating for Dave Peck who slipped from being the hottest player on the tour for a period during the middle of the season to smashing his racquet on the side wall and then slugging it out with the door on the way out of the court after his loss to Myers.

"I'm tense out there," said Peck while waiting for the finals to begin. "Any type of athlete has to know how to release pressure and I'm not making excuses, it's just something I have to work on. Hey the Steelers lost some games last year, but they came back to prove they were the best team in the game."

You figure it out. Yellen beats Hogan in two straight tour events. Jerry Hilecher tums up disguised as the Model of Court Comportment. Lindsay Myers makes the semis after beating Dave Peck who breaks a racquet in anger/frustration. None of that makes sense in the context of the 1979-80 tour.



Steve Strandemo finishes in the quarters for the sixth time in eight stops—this time losing to Hogan, lower left, quarter-final winner along with Hilecher over Don Thomas, upper right, Myers over Dave Peck, lower right, and Yellen over Jeff Bowman.







Second round: Hogan d. Meyers 21-11, 21-19; Strandemo d. Cohen 19-21, 21-8, 11-7; Bowman d. McDowell 21-13, 21-20; Yellen d. McCoy 21-9, 21-5. Hilecher d. Koltun 18-21, 21-12, 11-7; Thomas d. Fleetwood 10-21, 21-8, 11-6; Myers d. Harvey 21-16, 8-21, 11-8; Peck d. Morrow 21-9, 21-4.

Quarter finals: Hogan d. Strandemo 21-16, 21-12; Yellen d. Bowman 21-5, 21-13; Hilecher d. Thomas 20-21, 21-13, 11-0; Myers d. Peck 11-21, 21-18, 11-9.

Semi-finals: Yellen d. Hogan 21-15, 19-21, 11-1; Hilecher d. Myers 21-12, 21-7.

Finals: Yellen d. Hilecher 18-21, 21-14, 11-5.

You can't figure it, you need a reference point, a way to determine if this is the NRC tour or Rod Serling Presents. Enter Steven Q. Strandemo.

You guessed it, Q is for quarter-finals, where Strandemo finished for the third straight time and sixth in eight stops. Now that's more like it.

Moah grits? Why thank yew, dahlin!

Notes of the Tournament . . .

Southern hospitality prevailed at the Catalina Racquetball Classic East cosponsored by Leach/Seamco and sanctioned by the NRC/USRA . . . Every player pro and amateur alike - enjoyed the southern comfort in the Atlanta Sporting House hospitality room where hosts served a prime rib and a spaghetti dinner, and dispensed unending amounts of hot dogs, oranges, apples, dip, peanut butter and sandwiches. The Dannon yogurt added to the hospitality in Peachtree town by donating hundreds of cartons of the player favorite in all the popular flavors. Wagner's Thirst Quencher was on hand as it's been at all the pro stops this year, with Atlanta players downing it with pleasure just as NRC Pro-Am competitors have done across the country . . . But hospitality was more than food and drink. It showed up in the frequent question "What can I do to help?," creating a congenial atmosphere for NRC staff members and players. Among the hosts demonstrating how southerners treat guests were Sporting Club Director Rick Erdenberger; Tournament Director Caryn McKinney, National Racquetball's 1979 Most Improved Player from Georgia, who came away from her own tournament as Women's Open winner; Georgia State USRA Chairman Wayne Vincent and his wife, Ruth, who helped with the amateur matches; and Sporting House Exercise Director Pam Mallard, in charge of hospitality, assisted by Leslie Rosenberg. Patty Knox, who processes all Seamco ball orders for local tournaments, was watching the play, as was Art Orloski, Seamco national sales manager . . . In the Men's Open finals Bloomington, IL's Dennis McDowell beat Gregg Peck, of El Paso, to earn a trip to the Nationals and a color TV . . . Caryn won matching prizes when she beat Florida's Dee Lewis . . . Peck and Lewis won stereo tape cassettes, with all amateur prizes donated by Leach and Seamco . . . Qualifiers covered the whole range of players from veterans like Steve Keeley of Haslett, MI, to Junior Player Gregg Peck. In the 32s Keeley bowed to Steve Strandemo and Peck lost to Jerry Hilecher. Also qualifying were Men's Open Winner McDowell; Bruce Christensen, of Nashua, NH; George Vierra of Framingham, MA; Ross Harvey, of Montreal, and Matt Matthews, of Tampa . . This was the second Leach/Seamco Pro-Am Tournament that the Sporting Clubs, Inc. chain hosted this year (The Coors Classic was in Denver in February), and the NRC/USRA staff looks forward to more successful Sporting House tournaments in coming seasons.

### **The Peter Farina Trio**

### **Grandfather Heads It**

by John P. Christensen

"Hey they can't be right," said Eric Faddis as he poured over entries for the Second Annual Leukemia Racquetball Tournament in Delaware in March. "Here's a Peter Farina entered in the junior division and in the master's division."

Faddis later found Peter Farina entered in the B division and in the C division — twice in the latter — but he was dealing with three generations of Peter Farinas, rather than one very ambitious racquetball player.

It may not be a first for racquetball tournaments, but it was for Faddis, the Delaware chairman for USRA, and for Delaware.

The grandfather is Peter J. Farina, 59, who was the oldest of 15 players in the master's division. He also signed up to play in the C division. His son is Peter A. Farina, 31, who played in the B and C divisions. The grandson, nine-year-old Peter Todd Farina, was the youngest player in the junior division.

The grandfather began his racquetball career in the mid-70s when he moved to Tucson, but he had had a lifetime career in handball at Philadelphia YMCAs and health clubs.

What does he get out of the game? Well, for one thing, he says, it's a way to stay young, by competing with younger men. Todd, on the other hand, probably enjoys the game because it's something the older kids are doing.

"I play just about every day at 6 a.m.," the eldest Farina said. "It keeps you mentally alert."

His son sees the game as a release from business pressures. "I really enjoy the intensity and concentrating on something other than business. I lose myself in the game every weekend." He has been playing the game for about 18 months, starting at a YMCA and then joining the Branmar Racquetball Club, host for the Leukemia Tournament.

Peter Farina stays trim and "mentally alert" playing racquetball early every morning at the old Pueblo Courthouse in Tuscon.





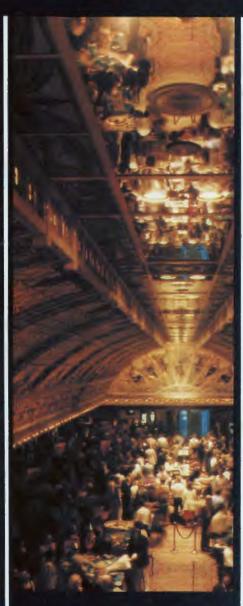
The youngest entrant had been playing about six months when he competed in the Luekemia Tournament, his first venture outside the club events.

Three Farinas — Peter A., Peter T. and Peter J., left to right — entered a Delaware tournament.

Grandpa Farina, although it seems incongruous to call someone who looks so fit by that name, won twice in the C division and one match in the master's. His son won twice in the B division but lost his first C division match. The grandson, the only Farina to be mentioned in local papers the next day, finished fifth in the junior division.

The tournament was a bittersweet one for the Farina family. Todd broke out in chickenpox in the middle of the tournament and had to forfeit his final match, but his grandmother Rose — who also plays racquetball — won a drawing worth more than \$100, most of which she donated to the Leukemia Society of America, which netted more than \$6,000 from the tournament, making about \$12,000 in proceeds for its two years. ●

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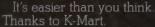


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